

# The Ministry of The Word and The Holy Spirit

The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins  
Matthew 25:1-13 (NKJV)



# Discern the Body and Blood of Jesus

## Hebrews 10:19-21

- **19** Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,
- **20** by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,
- **21** And since we have a great priest over the house of God, **(NIV)**

## Hebrews 10:19-21

- **19-21** So, friends, we can now—without hesitation—walk right up to God, into “the Holy Place.” Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice, acting as our priest before God. The “curtain” into God’s presence is his body. **(MSG)**

# The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins

Matthew 25:1-7 (NKJV)

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

2 Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish.

3 Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,

4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

6 "And at midnight a cry was *heard*: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'

7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

# The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins

Matthew 25:8-13 (NKJV)

8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

9 But the wise answered, saying, '*No*, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'

12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

# Similarities between the 10 virgins

- Their status (as described), was equal. They were virgins. **vs 1**
- They also had equal opportunity to see the same person (the bridegroom). **vs 1**
- All 10 virgins had lamps. **vs 1**
- The grace supply for each (wise and foolish) was equal. No favoritism. They were 5 each (5 is the number of grace). **vs 2**
- They all slumbered and slept. **vs 5**
- The midnight cry which sounded was loud enough for all 10 virgins to hear. **vs 6**
- They all arose and trimmed their lamps. **vs 7**
- They were all at the same place (location). **Vs 1, 5-8**

# Differences between Virgins

	Attributes
<p><b>2</b> Now five of them were <u>wise</u>, and five <i>were</i> <u>foolish</u>.</p>	Wisdom
<p><b>3</b> Those who <i>were</i> <u>foolish</u> took their <u>lamps</u> and <u>took no oil</u> with them, <b>4</b> but the <u>wise</u> took oil in their <u>vessels</u> with their <u>lamps</u>.</p>	Proactivity
<p><b>8</b> And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us <i>some</i> of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <b>9</b> But the wise answered, saying, '<u>No</u>, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'</p>	Priority
<p><b>10</b> And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were <u>ready</u> went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.</p>	Readiness
<p><b>11</b> "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' <b>12</b> But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'</p>	Opportunity

# Symbolisms

- **Virgin**

Figuratively, believers when they are pure (chaste). Symbolic of believers living an upright lifestyle in the Lord.

Christ is talking about the kingdom and only believers are in the kingdom.

- **Bridegroom**

Refers to the Lord (vs 1, vs 6, vs 11, vs 13)

- **Lamp**

Psalm 119:105 (KJV)

**105** Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

- **Oil**

Figuratively the indwelling and empowering of the Holy Spirit.

# The Ministry of the Word (Lamp) and the Holy Spirit (Oil).

- The Word of God is important. The Holy Spirit is equally important. However, both must work together for us to enjoy the full benefits.

Isaiah 48:16 NKJV

<sup>16</sup> “Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; From the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit have sent Me.”

# The Ministry of the Word (Lamp) and the Holy Spirit (Oil).

## Scriptural References

### a) Genesis 1:1-3 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

### b) Matthew 3:16-17 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

<sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

# The Ministry of the Word (Lamp) and the Holy Spirit (Oil).

## c) Acts 2:42 (NIV)

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

## d) Ephesians 1:13 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

# The Ministry of the Word (Lamp) and the Holy Spirit (Oil).

## e) Acts 13:2, 4-5 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

<sup>4</sup> The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.

<sup>5</sup> When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

## f) John 14:25-26 (NIV)

<sup>25</sup> “All this I have spoken while still with you.

<sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

# The Ministry of the Word (Lamp) and the Holy Spirit (Oil).

## g) Luke 1:41-42 (NIV)

<sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

<sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!"

## h) Isaiah 61:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are bound*;

# The Ministry of the Word (Lamp) and the Holy Spirit (Oil).

## i) Matthew 26:36-39 (NKJV)

**36** Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, “Sit here while I go and pray over there.”

**37** And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

**38** Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”

**39** He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*.”

The garden at Gethsemane, a place whose name literally means “oil press,” is located on a slope of the Mount of Olives just across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem.

# The Ministry of the Holy Spirit (Oil).

- To abide with you forever (...that He may abide with you forever John 14:16c NKJV), (...and make Our home with him. John 14:23e NKJV) - To make home, to remain.
- To  dwell with you (...or He dwells with you... John 14:17d NKJV) - To live with you
- To be in you (...will be in you. John 14:17d NKJV)

NB:

We are looking at two aspects here. He will be *with* us (not temporarily – to remain, to make home, to live with) and *in* us.

# The Ministry of the Holy Spirit (Oil).

- To guide us to all truth – because He is the Spirit of Truth (...He will guide you into all truth; John 16:13a NKJV)
- To teach you all things (...He will teach you all things...John 14:26d NKJV).
- To bring to your remembrance all things that Jesus Christ has said to you (...and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. John 14:26e NKJV).

# Distinguishing Factors

- This parable is not addressing the sinner or sinful living. It speaks to the righteous. The word of God (lamp) unified them. The holy spirit was the **distinguishing factor.**
- In this parable, time was a factor (test of endurance). Time is a revealer and a **distinguishing factor.**

## **NB:**

- The Holy Spirit will make you outstanding otherwise, you become a theologian or bible researcher.
- The Holy Spirit will cause your messages to be backed with signs, wonders and miracles.

# Noteworthy

- Foolishness categorized

a) Psalms 14:1 (NIV) - **1** The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

b) Matthew 25:3 (NKJV) - **3** Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,

Therefore, words and actions both reveal foolishness in the kingdom.

Saying there is no God is foolishness.

Saying there is God yet refusing the ministry of the Holy Spirit is equally foolishness.

- Human weakness is inevitable as a person invests time to study the word, however, the ministry of the Holy Spirit through a person will bless both the person and the people listening.

a) They all slumbered and slept (indicative of human weakness)

b) They all arose to trim their lamps yet only those with extra oil in vessels could successfully trim their lamps. Without the oil, the fire will destroy the wig of the lamp.

# The Sellers

- Matthew 25:9 (NIV)

"'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'"

Greek word – póleó

Which means to exchange or barter, to sell.

The impression here is that,

- a) A price must be paid (time, energy, and other resources).
- b) No other person can do it in your stead.
- c) Attempting to take from another person, will compromise their situation and will be temporal.
- d) You need to visit the source in order to obtain enough and learn how to do it in the process.

# Conclusion

- Examine your readiness.

How ready are you for the return of the King?

How is your Word-Study lifestyle?

How is your relationship with the Holy Spirit?

- Satan has a lamp and no oil.

Luke 4:10-11 NIV (Satan quoted from Psalm 91:11-12)

<sup>10</sup>For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully;  
<sup>11</sup>they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

- The carnal man cannot receive the things of the spirit

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV)

<sup>14</sup>The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

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