

# THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

Matthew 25

**There has never been a time in American history where Christians need to know the Word of God than we do today!**

Do not show your ignorance of World history... of what has been going on around the world in regards to anti-Semitism – anti-Christianity and the suffering of both Jews and Christians.

It is said by Dr. Kevin Clarkson that *“there are more martyrs for Christ in the twentieth century than in the previous nineteen centuries combined”* he goes on to say *“Christians in America have lived so comfortably with the First Amendment guarantee of religious liberty , which is unique in the annals of human history.”*

But, people, America is catching up with history in it's being against the Christian with his **Moral standards** and with its proclamation of a **Gospel** that guarantees Eternal Life to those who believe in Jesus Christ and Eternal damnation to those who do not.

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We have been studying Matthew 24-25 which is a **warning by Jesus Christ to the Jews** during The Tribulation. But just as it is vital that they know this passage and other warnings, so it is for Christians today to know the **warnings and exhortations to Christians in these last days of the Church Age.**

Are you ready to suffer for being a Christian?
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Are you ready to die?
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And, oh, don't sit back thinking this could never happen in America;

it is happening throughout the world and what makes you think it won't happen here?

Before we even read through these parables we need to understand that all of chapter 25;

Jesus is still answering the questions of the disciples in 24:3—

*what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?*

Jesus has been answering these questions from 24:4 and will continue through all of chapter 25.

How do we know this?

Matthew gives clear markings at the beginning of chapter 26:1

*When Jesus had finished all these words,*

Matthew 24:4 through 25  
*He said to His disciples,*

Question: **Why is this important?**

How we understand the following parables depends on the context. Jesus has not changed the context in His use of these parables.

The context is that these parables are related to Israel  
—not the church!

Jesus Christ is still speaking of His *return* to Israel and the judgments and the blessings that will take place when He comes.

Dr. Dwight Pentecost in his excellent book ***The Words and Works of Jesus Christ*** makes the following observation:  
**“Christ used two parables to teach that the re-gathered nation will be judged to determine who is saved and who is unsaved. The purpose of this judgment will be to exclude the unsaved from, and to receive the saved into the kingdom that He will establish following His Second Advent.”**

Chapter 25 can be easily broken down into three parts:

Parable of the Ten Virgins	25:1-13
Parable of the Talents	25:14-30
Judgment of the Gentiles (Baptism of fire for Gentiles)	25:31-46

- 1 *“Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.*
- 2 *“Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.*
- 3 *“For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them*
- 4 *but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps.*
- 5 *“Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep.*
- 6 *“But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’*
- 7 *“Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.*
- 8 *“The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’*

9 *“But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’*

10 *“And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.*

11 *“Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’*

12 *“But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’*

13 *“Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.*

The over-riding lesson is **preparedness; Be Prepared**

Question:

**Are you prepared to suffer because you are a Christian?  
Are you prepared to die?**

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There is only one preparation that can be made for death,  
and that is to believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior.

Not getting a burial plot...  
...but guaranteeing a Resurrected body.

Back to Matthew 25 and back to Jesus talking about the end of  
The Tribulation, when He returns.  
The parable of THE TEN VIRGINS is about the Jews being  
prepared at Jesus Christ second Advent.

They were not prepared for His first advent, but will they be  
prepared for His return?

In this parable the nation of Israel is likened to 10 virgins where  
they are divided into two groups.

Those prepared— **5 wise virgins** and  
those unprepared **5 foolish virgins.**

- 1 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

## Setting the Scene

It was an Oriental custom for the groom to take the bride to his parent's home for the wedding supper, (traditionally this is the way it is today) **his** invited friends were on the inside of the house waiting their arrival, while **her** friends were waiting outside and then join the groom and his bride to go into the house to join the festivities in the house.

**The groom, of course, is Jesus Christ.**

His Parent--- **God the Father;**  
Whose house is here pictured as the  
millennial Kingdom.

**The Bride is the Church**  
**(you are the bride).**

**Friends of the bride are**  
**here represented by Jews**  
**of The Tribulation.**

*Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.*

*Kingdom of heaven* represents the millennial kingdom

*ten virgins* represent the nation of Israel during The Tribulation

Let us look a moment at the word *virgin*

This is the Greek word ***Parthenos*** and has caused a great debate when it is used in Matthew 1:23, where it is used of a young woman who has not been sexually involved with a man:

Matthew 1:23

23 a virgin shall be with child.

But in 1 Corinthians 7, it is used of a woman of the age of marriage... where this word is used to describe an unmarried woman.



So context determines the extent of this word.

*lamps* represent their souls, who they are inside (believer or unbeliever).

*bridegroom* represents the coming Messiah-King; you will notice the bride is not even mentioned. This parable is about Israel, not the Church.

1 These young ladies fall into two groups:

**FOOLISH** and **WISE**

*“Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.*

We have seen in the comparison with the days of Noah, how many were just too involved in the daily affairs of living and did not listen to the warnings of Scripture. And how they did not understand the coming of the flood until the catastrophic flood came and took them away.

Here the unwise virgins will not be prepared for the coming of the groom until it was too late. (24:37-39)

Then we saw how the Jews are exhorted to be *alert, sure and be ready* (24:42-44).

Then we saw the faithful and sensible servants who were blessed. Then we saw the evil servants who will be cursed. (24:45-51).

So we have the **faithful, sensible servants** contrasted with the **evil servants**.

Now we see **five foolish virgins** and **five prudent virgins**.

*Five of them were foolish* the Greek manuscript list the foolish first by the adjective, **moros** where we get the English word *moron*, or stupid. The Greek word describes one as silly, stupid, or foolish. This word is interesting because in comparison to other Greek words of the same domain, this word is used to describe his **heart and character!**

They are called **virgins** to refer to them as being members of the chosen race of God.

Why are these referred to as foolish?

**Because in their hearts they refused to believe in Jesus as the Messiah.**

<b>The foolish virgins</b> refer to unbelieving Jews in The Tribulation.	<b>The five prudent virgins</b> refer to believing Jews in The Tribulation.
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*And five were prudent* described by the greek

**phro nimosi** which comes from the Greek word **phroneo** which means **to think**.

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If you want to be prudent or wise or sensible you have to think, you have to have learned to use your head for something more than a hat rack!

We saw that *moros* described the heart, the character of the person who is foolish, well, one of the Greek lexicons says this word refers to being prudent, **sensible** especially in relationship with others.

## **You know who are the prudent, the wise?**

Those who have the good sense to recognize who Jesus is and believe in Him as their Messiah—Savior—King!

They have a good relationship with the groom, who is Jesus, their Messiah.

It is the wise person, the prudent person throughout all history, regardless of dispensation who recognizes that Jesus is the Son of God, sent to be their Savior.

3 For (introduces evidence of their being foolish:)  
when the foolish took their lamps, they  
took no oil with them.

You think this is foolish?  
Have you ever ran out of gas?

What is really foolish is not to believe in the coming Messiah. That is, believe that He is the Messiah and that He is coming!

You know what the **oil** represents?  
That is right... **the Holy Spirit** who sets our souls alive, lights up who we are inside.

So the foolish virgins when out to meet the groom, they took themselves, but people who we are, in and of ourselves is not enough, we need God the Holy Spirit in us!

If this were a parable for the Church Age, **the foolish** would be the believer who does not walk in the leading and power of the Holy Spirit.

We saw how the sensible servant was contrasted with the evil servant in 24:42-51; here we see a contrast between the non-thinking virgins and the wise-virgins, and by the way we saw when Jesus Christ returns two will be together and one taken and one remains.

*4 but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps.*

See that word *took*? That is a verb and a verb denotes *action-and* action **should** denote thought! There are many people who act without thinking, like the 5 foolish virgins. But a wise person thinks before he/she acts.

*But the prudent took oil* (Holy Spirit)  
*in flasks* the Greek word refers to a pal, a vessel, some kind of container—here it refers to bodies, that contain our souls.

*Along with their lamps* we have seen that the lamp refers to the soul, the real you. So these wise or prudent virgins took the Holy Spirit inside their bodies.

In the parable they planed ahead...prepared!

5 *“Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep.*

There is so much in this verse.

Remember what Jesus is talking about: He is talking about His own return to earth, which in the parable is compared to a groom coming to the wedding supper. And in both cases, no one knows the day or hour when He will come.

And the picture here is that these virgins grow weary, while waiting for the coming of the Groom, they are a perfect picture of Jews, during the violent years of The Tribulation, waiting on the coming of the Messiah.

Growing weary in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** is one of the great dangers to believers. We have seen how the disciples on the eve of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ could not stay awake while Jesus prayed. (Luke 22:45-46)

In the Church Age it is so difficult to continue to walk by Faith in the Holy Spirit and to continue to grow in the Knowledge of Jesus Christ. (Galatians 6:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:13)

*Now while the bridegroom was delaying* in the parable the bridegroom is delaying his arrival to meet the friends of the bride. (Don't ever expect punctuality in a wedding, from anyone except maybe the preacher?) But what Jesus Christ is saying is that it will seem as though He is delaying His Second Advent.

This is important to what is going on:

Look back at 24:48 *The evil servant says in his heart  
'my master is not coming for a long time.*

The word translated *not coming* is our word—*delaying*—*my master is delaying His coming for a long time.* Outside of not knowing pertinent Scripture, I think the biggest struggle that most Christians have is calendar or a watch on their wrist. We have our own time table for things to be completed... and God should abide by our scheduling. Marriage, divorce, some business deal, healing from some injury or disease etc. (While others wish He would slow time down).

For an example, we see why God the Holy Spirit lists two vital words found in the new testament for patience:

one of the listed fruit of the Holy Spirit is **patience**

***makrothumia*** longsuffering in regards to people; and is also an impact of Spiritual Love.

The other word ***hupomone*** endurance, or patience in regards to things or circumstances. Patience with others, patience with things or circumstances meaning that you do not get so out of fellowship with the Holy Spirit that you decide to take matters into your own hands, saying if God is not going to fix this... I will!

Both ***Makrothumia*** and ***Hupomone*** are provided by God the Holy Spirit and both are vital to our Christian life. Ever

'lose it' with an auto mechanic? Grocery store line? On the road? With your husband/wife? With your children?

Well, you just 'lost' an opportunity to reflect the love of Christ and the patience of the Holy Spirit.

Accepting and living by God's timing is perhaps one of the most challenging test in our lives.

<sup>5</sup> *"Now while the bridegroom was delaying,*

And what happens to most everyone—spiritually when everything is delayed?

*they all got drowsy and began to sleep.*

In the parable the virgins waited so long they became drowsy---some began to sleep—physically.

Spiritually—they gave up on the coming of the Messiah.

Look at Psalm 121:

As we read through this, please remember this is directed toward Israel, the Jews; we make Christian application, but in context, this is a promise from God to Israel and its fulfillment depends on God's faithfulness and sovereignty.



Psalm 121:1

- <sup>1</sup> | (Jews of Israel who know Scripture) *will lift up my eyes* (direction of thought) *to the mountains;*  
(Mt. Zion) *From where shall my help come?*
- <sup>2</sup> *My help comes from the LORD,* (Jesus Christ)  
*Who made heaven and earth.*

This reference to God who made heaven and earth expresses two immediate thoughts:

- (1) To have any doubt in the one who created heaven and earth would be foolish, to think of the inexhaustible power He possess.
- (2) He certainly created heaven and earth with Israel in His plans.

- <sup>3</sup> *He will not allow your foot to slip;* (This does not mean no suffering...) for indeed they desert Him many times; this means they will not, (**cannot**) slip out of His eternal plan for Israel.  
He who keeps you will not slumber.

It may seem like He slumbers, as in our passage in Matthew 25, but He does not slumber this should bring to mind Genesis 28:

And as we read these three verses in Genesis 28:13-15, please read it as a Jew:

- 13 *And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants.*
- 14 *“Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.*
- 15 *“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this*

*land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”*

So in The Tribulation many Jews will forget the ancient promises to Israel. And think that the Messiah is not coming and they will fall asleep, which is a picture of just doubting that the Messiah is going to come.

Psalms 121:4-5

<sup>4</sup> *Behold, (pay attention and know your God) He who keeps Israel Will neither slumber nor sleep.* (So while it may seem as though He is

sleeping, He cannot sleep for He does not slumber He is not, He is working out His marvelous plan for Gentiles and Jews.)

<sup>5</sup> *The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade (protection and shelter, while you rest in that shade) on your right hand.*

And here is application to believers in the Church Age.  
**Eternal Security**

<sup>6</sup> *The sun will not smite you by day, Nor the moon by night. (He is always on alert.)*

He now closes with threefold promise from God to Israel:

<sup>7</sup> *The LORD will*

(1) *protect you from all evil;*

(2) *He will keep your soul.*

<sup>8</sup> (3) *The LORD will guard your going out and your coming in From this time forth and forever. (And this includes The Tribulation.)*

Matthew 25:5

<sup>5</sup> *“Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep.*

<sup>6</sup> *“But at midnight there was a shout, suddenly.*

The Greek simply says *in the middle of the night.*

*‘Behold, the bridegroom! 24:30-31 Come out to meet him.’*

7 *“Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.*

When Christ returns to earth...everyone will be awakened, some **to rejoice, most to mourn.**

The Greek word to trim—comes from the root of ***kosmos***—to adorn or simply set in order (this is where we get the English word for Cosmetics)—get their lamps all in order to light and shine.

8 *“The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’*

**What does the oil represent?**

The Oil represents God the Holy Spirit who lights up our souls and life... The Holy Spirit who gives life to our bodies.

9 *“But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for*

*yourselves.'*

This one is packed! The prudent believer knows that he cannot give the Holy Spirit or Salvation to another.

In Acts 8, Simon desired the power of the Holy Spirit but Peter told him *“You have no part or portion in this matter, (Salvation nor of the Holy Spirit) for your heart is not right before God.* (Acts 8:21)

Oh, people, what is a *heart that is right before God* **a heart of faith!** a heart that sees it's own poverty and goes to God by Faith in Jesus Christ.

The five foolish virgins do not have a heart that is right before God.

<sup>9</sup> *“But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves*

Remember these girls are sensible,  
they think things through and  
if they give their oil away  
there will not be enough for themselves.

Ok, before you start judging the wise girls, let's remember

- (1) that the point of the parable is **being prepared** This is teaching a lesson by or through a parable, and Christ is warning the Jews to be prepared for His Second Coming.
- (2) This also explains why there are 10 virgins and why half are foolish and half are sensible, prudent, wise. Not like say 8 wise and 4 foolish, where they could have shared their oil, had sharing been the lesson of the parable.
- (3) the response of the 5 wise girls intensifies the point of being prepared for His Coming. Each individual is responsible for her own decision, whether she is prepared or unprepared.
- (4) Though we have no scriptural proof but it seems safe to say that those close to Noah would have cried out to be allowed on the boat. Not to believe in the coming Messiah but to be saved from the coming flood.

Matthew 25:10

<sup>10</sup> *“And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.”*

These are startling words...

# the door was shut!

And this is what happen at Noah's flood...

Genesis 7:16

*Those that entered, male and female of all flesh,  
entered as God had commanded him;  
and the LORD closed it behind him.*

**—God shut the door**

And, dear people, this is going to happen to every person when they die--the door is shut! Not to be reopened. Many bleeding hearts do not like this kind of statement, but face the truth, the door is shut at the point of the rapture for going up to meet the Lord in the air.

**The door is shut** when the Lord returns to join Him in His Kingdom. Along with all the other horrible repercussions of our anti-God, anti-Christ society is that we have become a very sloppy thinking society, where we do not want any child to fail, so, none left behind, and there are multitude of parents who want to do away with winning and losing in sports, etc.



## **But, people, once you die, the door is shut!**

There is no second chance after death and there is no universal salvation. Multitudes will be left outside when the door is shut.

- 11 *“Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’* We are not told if they found some oil or not, but simply they showed up at the door. They obviously had been invited, (all Jews are invited into the kingdom, just as in the Church Age everyone is invited to believe in Jesus Christ) But even though they are invited, they were not prepared—did not believe in Jesus as the Messiah or His Second Coming to set up His Kingdom. They were not prepared to enter His Kingdom.

Now what is interesting is they call on Him, Lord, Lord, not on some doorman. This parable is about the bridegroom and the virgins. (Jews)

This of course draws to mind Matthew 7:21

- 21 *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”*

And what is the will of GOD THE FATHER?  
To believe in His Son.

1 John 2:17

*17 The world is passing away, and also its  
lusts; but the one who does the will of God  
lives forever.*

Matthew 7:22

*22 “Many will say to Me on that day, day of  
judgment, a day that is sure in history, though many  
calm themselves by denying this will ever happen  
‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your  
name, and in Your name cast out demons,  
and in Your name perform many miracles?’*

Did we not perform works in your name.

There are so many that through the centuries have **preached**  
for themselves, **sang** for themselves, **witnessed** for  
themselves, **gave** for themselves, **went to church** for  
themselves.

And, dear people, it is not up to us to judge them; to point out  
who we think fit into this group. When you are tempted to  
judge another please remember:

1 Cor. 4:5

<sup>5</sup> *Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.*  
(leave all judgment up to the Lord.)

Matthew 7:23

<sup>23</sup> *“And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’*

Here is a good place to understand **lawlessness** – lawlessness is not violating the ten commandments but lawlessness is not believing in the Son of God.

Back to Matthew 25:11-12

<sup>11</sup> *“Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’*

12 *“But* in contrast to opening up for them *he answered, ‘Truly I say to you,* what he is about to say is solemn, authoritative and final *I do not know you.’*

These were expecting great praise and perhaps sitting at a center table, but they will not even be inside.

**So many stress "Knowing God,"  
but people the real issue is  
"Does God Know You,"  
"Does Jesus Christ Know You?"**

*And* by this is meant I did not know you as one who believed in me.

Jesus closes this parable with its primary lesson.

13 *Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.* To show that all of Matthew 24-25 are on the same topic of His second coming, He has used this same word in 24:42.

Here He repeats the Present Active Imperative of the Greek word meaning just that *to watch, to refrain from sleeping, be alert, be on guard, be prepared*:

<p><b>To the Unbeliever</b> this means to believe in Jesus as the promised Messiah-Savior;</p>	<p><b>To the Believer</b> this means to be on guard every hour of everyday to be in the power, and leading and thinking of the Holy Spirit.</p>
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## Be on the alert!

Why?

Because of what you do not know!

They will not know the day nor the hour He will come—**be prepared!**

We, in the Church Age do not know when He will sound the trumpet to call home all believers of the Church Age— be prepared! As an unbeliever, believe in Jesus Christ; as a believer walk by Faith in the Holy Spirit.

<p>It is a wise person who believes in Jesus Christ as their Savior!</p>	<p>It is an unwise person who chooses not to believe.</p>
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## *ARE YOU WISE?*