

STUDY NOTES ON THE TEN VIRGIN PARABLE: -

NOTE: - We must understand that Matthew Chapters 24 & 25, are all one continuous discourse by Christ to His disciples concerning His Second Coming. There were no chapter or verse divisions in the original Greek Text – they were added centuries later. Therefore, the Ten Virgin Parable is set within the context of this continuous discourse on the Second Coming.

- Jesus has warned His disciples that His Second Coming is going to be unexpected. His disciples are therefore to watch for His approaching return, and to be ready. In fact, the Parable ends with an exhortation of Jesus repeating the same truth – to watch for His coming.

Matthew 24:42 - 44: - “Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”

Matthew 25:13: - “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”

- The New Testament Scriptures have repeatedly exhorted believers to be watchful and careful, because of the unexpectedness of Christ’s return.

Luke 12:35 – 40: - “Let your loins be girded about, and *your* lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed *are* those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.”

Luke 21:34 – 36: - “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and *so* that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

1st Thessalonians 5:1 – 8: - “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”

Hebrews 9:28: - “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

1st Peter 1:13 – 16: - “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

1st Peter 4:7: - “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”

THE TEN VIRGIN PARABLE: -

- Jesus tells this Parable concerning those professed believers who are looking for His Second Advent.

Matthew 25:1: - “Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.”

The virgins represent those who are looking for Jesus’ Second Coming.

2nd Corinthians 11:2: - “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ.”

In Biblical symbolism, a virgin is not always referring to a young woman; it can also refer to a man.

Luke 12:36: - “And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.”

Revelation 14:4: - “These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, *being* the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.”

Jesus Christ is represented as the Bridegroom and this is established from the following passages.

John 3:27 - 30: - “John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I *must* decrease.”

Romans 7:4: - “Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, *even* to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.”

Ephesians 5:23 - 25 & 29, 30: - “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ... For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.”

All ten virgins have a Lamp. The Word of God is described as a Lamp to our pathway. Therefore, all ten virgins have the Word of God.

Psalms 119:105: - “Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

Psalms 119:130: - “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”

- Jesus describes the Virgins as being of two completely different types – wise or foolish virgins. The Wise are described as taking enough oil in addition with their lamps; whereas, the Foolish only have their lamps – they have neglected to take extra oil with them. And until the Cry at Midnight comes, this is the **ONLY** observable difference between the two groups of virgins.

Matthew 25:2 - 4: - “And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. They that *were* foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.”

So what does the symbol of the Oil represent? A key to our understanding of this symbol, is to recognize the fact, that in the Earthly Sanctuary, the Lamps of the Golden Candlestick had pure Olive Oil

as the fuel source to light the Lamps. The Oil was the fuel for the Lamps so that they could give off their light. Without any oil, the Lamps are useless.

Exodus 27:20: - “And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.”

So what is the spiritual fuel or power that causes the Scriptures [the Lamps] to give off Light in our lives? It is the power of the Holy Spirit, who works within the true believer to enable them to obey the Word of God – the Lamp.

Zechariah 4:1 – 6, 11 & 12: - “And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, and said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all *of* gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which *are* upon the top thereof: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right *side* of the bowl, and the other upon the left *side* thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What *are* these, my lord? Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.** ... Then answered I, and said unto him, What *are* these two olive trees upon the right *side* of the candlestick and upon the left *side* thereof? And I answered again, and said unto him, What *be these* two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden *oil* out of themselves?”

We must remember that the Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit; that the Word of God is the truth, by which we are to be sanctified. Our salvation is through the Sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth [the Word of God – the Lamp]; it is by the Spirit that we can obey God’s truth [that is, His Word – the Lamp]. Please also remember, that Jesus promised to send the Comforter – the Spirit of truth, to be our Teacher and to guide us into all truth, and to glorify and uplift Christ. Christ, His Life and Teachings, will be brought forward by the Spirit to be understood and followed carefully in the life of the believer.

Ephesians 6:17: - “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

John 17:17: - “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

2nd Thessalonians 2:13: - “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.”

1st Peter 1:22: - “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently.”

John 14:16 & 17: - “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

John 14:26: - “But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

John 15:26: - “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.”

John 16:13 – 15: - “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show *it* unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show *it* unto you.”

✎ It is not enough to have the Word of God [the Lamp] – we have to allow the Holy Spirit to work in our daily lives, to become a doer of the Word; to walk after the Spirit, and not to fulfill the lusts or desires of our flesh. This is to be a Wise Virgin.

Romans 8:1 – 4: - “*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*”

- The Bridegroom – Christ, has delayed His coming, and because of this, all Ten of the virgins have fallen asleep. Even the Wise virgins are asleep, just as much as the Foolish virgins are.

Matthew 25:5: - “While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.”

- At midnight – the darkest hour of the night, a sudden cry is heard, proclaiming the coming of the Bridegroom is here, and that the virgins are to go out to meet him.

Matthew 25:6: - “And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.”

The virgins are to awake from their spiritual slumbers, and go forth from the world and the lusts of the flesh, to meet Christ.

Isaiah 52:11: - “Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean *thing*; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.”

Romans 13:11 – 14: - “And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.”

- All ten virgins respond to the Midnight Cry, and it is at this point, that the difference between the two types of virgins becomes obvious. The Wise use their extra Oil to keep their lamps going; while the Foolish, not having any extra Oil, find their lamps are going out in darkness. The Foolish ask the Wise to give to them some of their Oil, but the Wise can’t do this. They counsel the Foolish to go and buy the Oil for themselves. The foolish virgins, have not made ready, and have not made the necessary life preparation, by the Spirit, for the coming of the Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ. We can’t save each other – we cannot obey the Word of God for another person.

Matthew 25:7 – 9: - “Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, *Not so*; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.”

Ezekiel 14:20: - “Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, *were* in it, *as* I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall *but* deliver their own souls by their righteousness.”

- While the Foolish go away to buy the Oil, the Bridegroom comes, and the Wise who are READY to meet Him in peace, go in with Him into the Marriage Supper and the Door is SHUT! The Wise have on the Robe of Christ's Righteousness, and will partake of the Lamb's Marriage Supper.

Matthew 25:10: - "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut."

Revelation 19:7 – 9: - "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."

- After the Bridegroom and the Wise virgins have gone into the marriage supper, the Foolish come to the door, asking that the door be opened for them. But the Bridegroom – Christ tells them plainly "I know you not". This is exactly what Jesus will tell the disobedient professed believers in the Day of Judgment – "I never knew you!"

Matthew 25:11 & 12: - "Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not."

Matthew 7:23: - "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

As in the Parable, so in reality – there comes a time BEFORE Jesus' Second Coming, when it will be too late to get ready to meet the Bridegroom in peace. There will come a time, when probation will be closed for humanity so that they are not able to change sides and get ready to meet Christ in peace! Just as it was in the days before the Flood occurred, the door of the Ark was shut, before God sent the Flood to destroy the impenitent sinners.

Revelation 22:11 & 12: - "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Genesis 7:1 – 4 & 16: - "And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that *are* not clean by two, the male and his female. Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth. ... And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in."

- A sobering conclusion to this parable – **Watch and be Ready, because we do NOT know the exact time when Jesus comes again.** We need the Word of God, and to be obeying the truths of the Word, through the Oil of the Holy Spirit!

Matthew 25:13: - "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."