

THE WISE AND FOOLISH

The Parable of the Ten Virgins depicts ten girls awaiting the coming of an absent bridegroom:

Matthew 25:1-13

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

Eph 5:29-30; Re 19:7; 21:2,9

V: 1 (A) There is joy in the judgment for those who spend each day in preparation for the midnight hour.

(B) Ready for duty and prepared for joy.

Revelation 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

(C) Ten virgins - custom - ten friends of the bride.

2Co 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.

(D) This is the kind of willing, joyful anticipation JESUS wanted for his disciples - us - the church, every day and every minute!

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.

2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

Mt 13:47; 22:10

V: 2 Israel longed for the MESSIAH to come. When HE did, they were not ready -

Now how about the church?

Revelation 19:7-8 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. v8 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.

3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

V:3 Their job was to light the way for the procession from the bride's house to the bridegroom's house when he came to claim his bride.

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

V: 4 The oil - JESUS was anointed with the oil of gladness The Holy Spirit

Hebrews 1:9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, [even] thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

1Th 5:6

V: 5 The bridegroom tarried - The grace of GOD.

Isaiah 30:18 And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD [is] a God of judgment: blessed [are] all they that wait for him.

2 Peter 3:8-10 v8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day [is] with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. v9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. v10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom

cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Mt 24:31; 1Th 4:16

V: 6 It was a custom to send a courier announcing: Behold, the bridegroom cometh!

I Thessalonians 4:13-17

1Th 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

Lu 12:35

V: 7 Self examination –

Lamentations 3:40 40 Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.

I Corinthians 11: 31-32 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

II Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Galatians 6:4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming

8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. {gone out: or, going out}

V: 8 They should have known - and been ready - No excuse!

Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

9 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.

V: 9 (A) Jewish weddings were held at night.

(B) Sad, if they shared, there would not be enough oil to light the way and all their lamps would go out before they reached the bridegroom's house.

**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.
Lu 13:25**

V: 10 Custom was to shut and lock the door. 1 Corinthians 15:50-55

**11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.
Mt 7:21-23**

***V: 11 They could not enter the joy! Psalms 88:1-18. Numbers 16:28-33
Ps 88:1 (A Song or Psalm for the sons of Korah, to the chief Musician upon Mahalath Leannoth, Maschil of Heman the Ezrahite.) O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee:***

Nu 16:28 And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath

sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.

29 If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.

30 But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.

31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:

32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.

33 They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

Ps 88:10 ¶ Wilt thou shew wonders to the dead? shall the dead arise and praise thee? Selah.

11 Shall thy lovingkindness be declared in the grave? or thy faithfulness in destruction?

12 Shall thy wonders be known in the dark? and thy righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?

13 But unto thee have I cried, O LORD; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee.

14 LORD, why castest thou off my soul? why hidest thou thy face from me?

15 I am afflicted and ready to die from my youth up: while I suffer thy terrors I am distracted.

16 Thy fierce wrath goeth over me; thy terrors have cut me off.

17 They came round about me daily like water; they compassed me about together.

18 Lover and friend hast thou put far from me, and mine acquaintance into darkness.

Mt 25:23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

**12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.
Ps 5:5; Hab 1:13; Joh 9:31**

**13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein
the Son of man cometh.**

**Mt 24:42,44; Mr 13:33,35; Lu 21:36; 1Co 16:13; 1Th 5:6; 1Pe 5:8; Re
16:15**

**This Parable of the Ten Virgins is plainly a parable of the second
coming of Christ and of the judgment.**

ANALOGIES IN THIS PARABLE

The kingdom of heaven = the church

The bridegroom = Christ

The midnight arrival = the second advent

The virgins = church members

The wise virgins = the prepared

The foolish virgins = the unprepared

The lamps = (a) faith or (b) works

The oil = (a) works or (b) the Spirit

The sleep of the virgins = the sleep of death

Tarrying of the bridegroom = delay of the second coming

The midnight cry = the call to judgment

Refusal to give oil = merit not transferable

Exclusion of the foolish = rejection of unprepared

The shut door = impossibility of the last minute salvation

V: 12 Too late –

**Numbers 14:40-45 v40 And they rose up early in the morning, and
gat them up into the top of the mountain, saying, Lo, we [be
here], and will go up unto the place which the LORD hath
promised: for we have sinned. v41 And Moses said, Wherefore
now do ye transgress the commandment of the LORD? but it shall
not prosper. v42 Go not up, for the LORD [is] not among you; that
ye be not smitten before your enemies. v43 For the Amalekites
and the Canaanites [are] there before you, and ye shall fall by the
sword: because ye are turned away from the LORD, therefore the**

LORD will not be with you. v44 But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not out of the camp. v45 Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, [even] unto Hormah.

1 Samuel 15:24-26 and Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. v25 Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. v26 And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

Jeremiah 8:20 The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

V: 13 TODAY could be our LAST DAY!

1 Thessalonians 5:2-4, For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. v3 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. v4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Revelation 16:15. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed [is] he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

Mt 25:14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

II Cor. 1:20 For all the promises of God in him [are] yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

Ephesians 1: 3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly [places] in Christ.

Ephesians 2: 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Mt 25:15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Matthew 25:16-23 Christians produce Christians

Mt 25:16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Christians produce Christians

John 15:1-5 1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every [branch] that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye [are] the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Mt 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

Matthew 25:26-30

Mt 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Drop down to

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with [them], and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

II Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

I Thess 1:6-10 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: 7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. 9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; 10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, [even] Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come

LET'S REVIEW THESE PARABLES:

Note how closely each of these parables shares certain

common qualities with the others and develops Jesus' general theme:

1. Each story is addressed to Jesus' disciples, hence does not speak

about the world particularly. Rather, each addresses problems that concern Christians intimately, by speaking to the issue of Christian responsibility during the period between Pentecost and the Second Coming.

2. Each parable concerns an important figure who is absent, but returns. The point of each illustration turns on what would transpire upon his return. This aspect emphasizes the responsibility of those who await him during his absence. In its own way each story emphasizes (1) the uncertainty of the time of the Lord's return; (2) the necessity for appropriate preparation for that event during his absence; and (3) the rewards or punishments for success or failure to do this.