



Parable of the Wise & Foolish Virgins Part 1

John Bell



Matthew 25:1-13

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

- Question: Who do the ten virgins represent?

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

Question: How are the virgins alike and how are they different?

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

Question: Who do the ten virgins represent?

Answer: The ten virgins are bridesmaids and represent or illustrate professing Christians who claim to belong to Christ.

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

Question: How are the virgins alike and how are they different?

Answer: All of the virgins had the external marks of commitment to Christ, but inwardly five were wise and five were foolish.

- Verse 3 – **They that were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them.**
- Verse 4 - **But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.**
- Question: What distinguishes the foolish virgins from the wise?
- Question: What distinguishes the wise virgins from the foolish?
- Question: What is the oil of preparation?
- Question: What is true salvation?

Question: What distinguishes the foolish virgins from the wise?

Answer: **The foolish virgins were not prepared as they took no oil with them**

Question: What distinguishes the wise virgins from the foolish?

Answer: **The wise virgins were prepared as they took oil with them.**

Question: What is the oil of preparation?

Answer: **The oil of preparation is true salvation.**

Question: What is true salvation?

Answer: **True salvation is turning from sin, confessing Jesus as Lord and believing that God raised Jesus from the dead (Rom 10:9), which results in a new nature, holy living, and a desire to serve God.**

- Verse 5 – **While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.**

- Question: Is sleep condemned?

- Verse 6 – **And at midnight there was a cry made, behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.**

- Question: What is the significance of the bridegroom's coming at midnight?

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

Question: Is sleep condemned?

Answer: **No, but for the foolish virgins, sleep is folly as they were not prepared to meet the bridegroom.**

Verse 6 – And at midnight there was a cry made, behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Question: What is the significance of the bridegroom's coming at midnight?

Answer: **Jesus who is the bridegroom in this parable will come at an unexpected time.**

Verse 7 – **Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.**

Question: Were the foolish virgins successful in trimming their lamps?

Verse 8 & 9 – **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 not be enough for us and you; but go ye rather to them that sell and buy for yourselves.**

Question: Were the wise virgins selfish not to share their oil?

Question: Do the words “buy for yourselves” indicate that you must pay for salvation?

Question: Were the foolish virgins successful in trimming their lamps?

Answer: **Yes, but because the foolish virgins had no oil, their lamps could only smolder briefly.**

Question: Were the wise virgins selfish not to share their oil?

Answer: **No, the oil represents true salvation, and no person can share their salvation with another.**

Question: Do the words “buy for yourselves” indicate that you must pay for salvation?

Answer: **No, salvation is a free gift (Rom 6:23), but everyone must procure their own.**

- Verse 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.**

- Question: When the bridegroom came, who was able to enter into the house?

- Verse 11 – **Afterward, came also the other virgins saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.**

- Question: Can you think of other examples in scripture where the door has been shut?

Verse 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.

Question: When the bridegroom came, who was able to enter into the house?

Answer: **Only the wise virgins were “ready”, so only the wise virgins (those who were prepared) were able to enter the house before the door was shut.**

Verse 11 – Afterward, came also the other virgins saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

Question: Can you think of other examples in scripture where the door has been shut?

Answer: **Sermon on the Mount (Matt 7:21-23), Narrow Gate (Luke 13:22-30), Noah (Gen 6-7)**

- Verse 12 – **But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.**
- Question: Is there a second chance for those who refuse the gift of salvation?
- Verse 13 – **Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.**
- Question: Since Jesus will return at an unexpected time, what is the only way to be ready for his coming?

Verse 12 – But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Question: Is there a second chance for those who refuse the gift of salvation?

Answer: **No, Jesus warned people repeatedly that there are no second chances for those who refuse the gift of salvation.**

Verse 13 – Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.

Question: Since Jesus will return at an unexpected time, what is the only way to be ready for his coming?

Answer: **The only sure way to be ready when Jesus unexpectedly returns is to be ready every day.**

Be Ready!!!

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

¹¹ Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

2 Cor 5:10-11

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2
Cor 5:21

²¹ He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: John 14:21

Jewish Betrothal - A Process

- Groom arrives to meet with the Father
- Father sets the bride price which the Groom agree to pay
- They review a contract of pre-nuptial agreement
- If they all agree, wine is used to seal the deal
- Groom prepares to leave but recites John Chapter 14

Betrothal Element

Process Step

Meaning / Connection

1. Mohar – Bride Price Paid

Step 1 – The Cross

Jesus pays the price (His blood)
— the offer of eternal covenant.

2. Ketubah – Covenant Agreement

Step 2 – The Tomb

The believer agrees to the terms
— turning from the old life.

3. Cup of Wine – Covenant Sealed

Step 3 – Resurrection: Mercy & Hope

Bride drinks — affirming her love, hope, and acceptance of the groom's life as her own.

Mikveh – Ritual Cleansing

Continues Step 3 and into Step 4

A spiritual preparation, expressing mercy, purity, and new life.

4. Gifts and Spirit Sent Ahead

Step 4 – Revelation: Holy Spirit

The Groom departs but sends a Helper and promise (oil, gifts, guidance).

In Jewish betrothal, after the groom offers the mohar (bride price), he pours a cup of wine and says something like:

"This cup is a covenant in my blood; I give my life for you. Will you be mine?"

- If the bride **drinks from the cup**, she is saying, "Yes. I accept your life, and I give mine in return."

- It's a sacred, **relational seal** — not just legal but deeply personal and symbolic.

- ◆ **In the Gospels, Jesus mirrors this:**

"This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you."

(Luke 22:20, Matthew 26:27–29)