

The Wise And Foolish Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13

Faith Portal Church

YOUTH

Unit 3 Lesson 12

Supplemental Texts

Matt 24:45-51

Focus Verse

“While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.” – Matthew 25:5,6

Introduction

Matthew 24:3 details the three questions Jesus’ disciples asked Him about the end of the world. It is undeniable that Matt 25 is a continuation of Jesus’ response to His disciples in Matt 24. The text presents a contrast between two groups of five virgins who made preparation to meet a bridegroom for a marriage celebration. It is important to assess the readiness of these groups of virgins and determine if each group was worthy to go with the bridegroom.

Deeper Look

The Ten Virgins – Matt 25:1-7

This parable draws its imagery from the Jewish marriage customs in which the virgins that attended on the bride would go out to meet the bridegroom—who would appear any minute—at night with their lamps lighted, to guide him and his friends to the bride. Afterward, the virgins would escort the bridegroom in a procession as he took his bride home for the marriage feast. Only those who were fully ready would go with the bridegroom and be seated in the feast.

The difference between the “wise” and “foolish” virgins is in their conduct with respect to “oil.” The wise virgins recognized that the bridegroom’s arrival could be delayed, so they took oil with them; however, the foolish virgins made no provision for any delay, perhaps thought the bridegroom would arrive almost immediately. Because the bridegroom delayed, all the virgins fell asleep until his announced arrival, at which point the virgins had to make their lamps ready.

Give Us Of Your Oil – Matt 25:8-13

Having burnt until midnight, the oil in their lamps was exhausted. It was necessary to trim the wick and replenish the oil in their lamps. Doing this makes the lamps burn brighter. In all, the foolish had no extra oil. They asked the wise virgins, “Give us of your oil.” The wise replied, “Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.” The wise virgins, unlike the foolish, knew and did ALL it would take to meet the bridegroom and go with him to the marriage feast without taking any chances, whatsoever.

Questions

1. What does each of the following represent in our text?
 - The lord –
 - The bridegroom –
 - The virgins –
 - The lamps –
 - The oil –
2. Mention the similarities that exist between the wise virgins and the foolish virgins. Can we find these groups of virgins in the churches today? Explain.
3. What exactly distinguishes the wise virgins from the foolish virgins? Why were the foolish virgins unable to do exactly what the wise virgins did? Explain.
4. The bridegroom came at a time when all the virgins were asleep. Would you say that the wise and foolish virgins were unready to meet the bridegroom? Explain.
5. How much preparation can a person make after Jesus has already returned to catch his bride away?
6. What is the major step necessary to be prepared to meet Jesus when He returns? How do you keep yourself waiting and watching for Him?
7. What is the subject matter of the parable? How does it influence you?

Personal Meditation

Is your lamp still burning? Do you carry extra oil with you? Are you committed to watching for our Lord's return? These questions are important and would have helped the foolish virgins to see their spiritual state and make corrections before the bridegroom appeared.

The wise virgins represent the true Christians who are in anticipation of the return of Christ. They have determined to watch until He returns, come what may. The foolish virgins represent those who are not true Christians and, in whose hearts, the true love for Christ is lacking. They are individuals whose hearts represent the stony-ground and the thorny-ground (Mark 4:3-20). These kinds of people are unable to produce any spiritual fruit because their hearts are focused on temporal things. Outwardly they act as Christians, but inwardly they are hypocrites.

May we not be found doing the first thing last (vv. 9-10) when Jesus returns. We must be careful to fill our lamps and take extra oil as we wait and watch for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May we not be shut out of heaven as these foolish virgins (vv. 10-13).

DAILY STUDY

Monday	Matt 25:1-2
Tuesday	Matt 25:3-4
Wednesday	Matt 25:5-6
Thursday	Matt 25:7-8
Friday	Matt 25:9-10
Saturday	Matt 25:11-13



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