

**The Road Less Traveled**  
**The Ten Virgins**  
**Matt 25.1-13**

Through Matthew 24 we have looked at,

- The Precursors to the End Times,
  - We saw Israel become a nation again and Jerusalem its capitol
  - We looked at the Prophesied Perilous Times
  - We saw the Famine of the Word of God that we experience today through modern versions of the Bible

We are living in the end of the Church Age.

- The Second Coming of Christ,
  - At the Second Advent at the end of the Tribulation Period
  - At the Rapture of the Church for the redeemed
- We discovered what we must do in these times. Watch and be found a Faithful Servant of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now in Matthew 25 we discover,

**A. The Consummation of the Age (vs 1) - [*Then* shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto . . .]**

[After all is said and done, this is what shall appear.]

[This Passage speaks to the deformity of the Church in the end. As does,]

- [The Parable of the wheat and tares (Matt 13.24-30)]
- [The parable of the Mustard Seed (Matt 13.31-32)]
- [The parable of the leaven (Matt 13.33)]
- [The seven Churches of the Revelation (Rev 2-3)]

**B. The Constitution of the Church - Ten Virgins (cf Matt 25.31-46).**

**1. The Troop [- The similarities between these ten virgins.]**

Psalm 119.105

a. **They Took lamps** (vs 1; Ps 119.105; 2 Cor 11.2; John 1.1-,14) [- *Then shall the kingdom of heaven **be likened** unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.*"]

[**Lamps** are often a symbol of the Word of God in Scripture]

*[Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. ]*

[**Bridegroom** - Clearly the bridegroom **is Jesus Christ**, who is the Word (2 Cor 11.2; John 1.1-2,14)]

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1 The Troop

- They Took Lamps – Bible

*[2 Cor. 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. ]*

*[John 1:1-2 In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word** was God. <sup>2</sup>The same was in the beginning with God.]*

*[John 1:14 **And the Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.]*

[May indicate obedience, Good works, or morality.]

[Probably indicates a knowledge of God.]

[All ten virgins have their lamps - They are all carrying their Bibles, they were all waiting for the same bridegroom.]

b. **They Traveled** (vs 1) [- . . . *and went forth to meet the bridegroom.*]

[Indicates sincerity, desire, and intent.]

[All Ten virgins are going together.]

[Their desire is to meet the bridegroom and enter the wedding with Him.]

- c. **They Tired** (vs 5; 1 Thes 5.4-8) [- *While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.*]

1 Thess 5.4

[**Slumbered** - nustazo {noos-tad'-zo}, 1) to nod in sleep, to sleep; **to be overcome or oppressed with sleep; to fall asleep, drop off to sleep.** 2) to be negligent, careless: of a thing i.e. to linger, delay.]

[**Slept** - katheudo {kath-yoo'-do}, 1) to fall asleep, drop off to sleep. 2) to sleep; 2a) to sleep normally. 2b) euphemistically, to be dead 2c) metaph. to yield to sloth and sin, to be indifferent to one's salvation]

[May indicate **apathy and lethargy**]

[We should not be caught sleeping, but should be found watching instead.]

*[1 Thes. 5:4-8 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. <sup>5</sup>Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. <sup>6</sup>Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. <sup>8</sup>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.]*

- d. **They Trimmed** (vs 7) [- *Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.*]

[Trimming the lamp is the act of actually lighting the lamp.]

[They all try to light their lamps when the call comes.]

2. **The Ticket** (vs 2-3, 10) [- *And five of them were wise, and five were*

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foolish. <sup>3</sup>They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: . . . <sup>10</sup>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. ]

[The only difference between the wise and the foolish is **the possession of the oil.**]

**[Without the oil nothing else matters.** The virgins with no oil are sent to find oil, which they cannot buy. And are not allowed to enter the marriage feast.]

[So the question arises what is the oil.]

**[The OIL is the ticket that allows entrance!]**

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**2 The Ticket**

### 3. The Test - The necessity of the oil.

The oil is **not** based upon,

- **Their religious Principles** [- Lamp - Knowledge or doctrine.]

Matt 7.21

[To know is not to receive (James 2.19).]

*[James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. ]*

[Many shall say (Matt 7.21-23)]

*[Matthew 7:21-23 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? <sup>23</sup>And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. ]*

- **Their religious preoccupation** [- went - Sincerity.]

[Sincerity never got anyone into heaven nor into a right relation with God.]

[You may be sincere, but you also may be sincerely wrong.]

[You may have a migraine headache, and may sincerely seek to rid yourself of your headache, but if you take your sugar pill, for diabetes, instead of aspirin or Tylenol is won't do you any good.]

- **Their religious practices** [- slumbered and slept - tradition.]

[Religious practices won't get you to heaven either, as a matter of fact religious practices will put you to sleep if they become repetitive.]

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**2 The Ticket** – The Oil represents the Holy Spirit within.

**The oil is based upon:**

- **An Unseen element (vs 8; Eph 1.13-14)** – [*Matthew 25:4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*]

Eph 1.13

[Oil in the Bible is often considered **a symbol of the Holy Spirit.**]

[We receive the Holy Spirit at our salvation (Eph 1.13-14) - The earnest of the Spirit.]

*[Ephes. 1:13-14 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. ]*

- **An Unprecedented gift (vs 9-10; Rom 8.14; 6.23; Eph 2.8-9) [- Cannot be bought.]**

*[Matthew 25:9-10 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.** <sup>10</sup> 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.]

[The oil of the Holy Spirit in our lamps, or the presence of the Holy Spirit with in us is an indication of our salvation.]

*[Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.]*

[Christians receive the Holy Spirit at salvation. He is a gift for God (Rom 6.23; Eph 2.8-9)]

*[Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.]*

*[Ephes. 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast.]*

- **An Unwavering presence (vs 10; Rom 8.14-16; Matt 5.14-16; 1 Cor 2.12; 1 John 5.11-13) [- The bridegroom.]**

[The witness (Rom 8.14-16)]

*[Romans 8:14-16 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. <sup>16</sup>The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:]*

[The brilliance (Matt 5.14-16; 1 Cor 2.12) - Through the oil of the Holy Spirits our lamps can be and are illuminated. Our understands are also enlightened.]

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**3 The Test – The Oil within the vessel**

*[Matthew 5:14-16 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. <sup>16</sup>Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.]*

*[1 Cor. 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.]*

[The litmus test of Christianity (1 John 5.11-13) - The indwelling presence.]

*[1 John 5:11-13 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. <sup>13</sup>These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.]*

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4. **The Timing** (vs 10-13; 2 Thess 2.7) [- 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. <sup>11</sup> Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. <sup>12</sup> But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, **I know you not**. <sup>13</sup> Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.]

[When the door closes, grace removes.]

*[2 Thes. 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.]*

*[Grace Refused becomes Grace Removed]*

**C. The Converted Christian [- make provision for your soul.]**

[Is there oil in your lamp?]

- [A lamp without oil is useless.]
- [An impractical, unusable Word is useless.]
- [Knowing the word of God without the illumination of the Holy Spirit is useless.]

*["It's one thing to know the word, it's quite another thing to know the Savior.]*

[An untested lamp is untrustworthy - will the wick burn?]

- [A burning wick provides light - An evidence of usefulness.]

[A properly lit lamp produces a change]

- [From darkness to light.]
- [It will reveal your heart and nature]

**[Illustration:** An old sculptor had among other pieces of work in his shop the model of a beautiful cathedral. It was covered with the dust of years, and nobody admired it, although it was an exact model of a fine cathedral, inside and out. One day the attendant placed a light inside the model, and its gleam shone through the beautiful stained-glass windows. Then all stopped to admire its beauty. The change that was brought by the light within was marvelous.]

CrossRoads Baptist Church, July 26, 2020  
Sugar Creek Baptist, August 21, 2005, Evening Service  
Sugar Creek Baptist, July 6, 2003

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**4 The Timing**

**E The Converted Christian**