

Matthew 25:1-13 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Introduction: Jesus gave certain signs whereby men can know the nearness of His coming, but no man can know the exact time. Jesus said that men should watch, Matthew 24:42, 44. The parable in our text teaches the same thing. Men should be prepared for His coming.

“Then” in verse 1 refers to the time of His coming. The Kingdom of heaven refers to professed Christianity. The parable shows that not all Christianity will be ready when Jesus comes.

I. The parable.

- A. There were ten virgins who took lamps and went to meet the bridegroom, verse 1.
- B. Five were wise and five were unwise, verse 2.
 1. Note that the word is “wise” not “good”.
(They may not have been any better than the other five.)
 2. The word describing the other five is “foolish” not “bad”.
(They may not have been any worse than the other five.)
 3. Five were wise in that they were prepared for the bridegroom.
(They may not have been superior to the other five in other matters.)
- C. It would be well to understand something about weddings in that day.
 1. The groom, along with relatives and friends, would go to the home of the bride.
(Two or three day feast held.)
 2. Other relatives and friends would prepare a feast and party at the groom's home, to begin when the groom arrived with his bride.
 3. A group of girls, accompanied by a few adults, would go out to meet the groom and his bride and accompany them to his home for the festivities.
- D. In our parable there were ten of these girls who went to meet the groom.
 1. They all ten had lamps and all ten had oil in their lamps at first.
(As we will see in verse 8.)
 2. The five foolish virgins took no extra oil, verse 3.
 3. The five wise virgins took extra oil in vessels, verse 4.
- E. Apparently they all had sufficient oil if the bridegroom had come when he was expected.
- F. But he did not come when expected and they all ten fell asleep while awaiting his arrival, verse 5.
(They sat by the wayside.)
- G. At midnight they were awakened and instructed to go further and meet the bridegroom, verse 6.
- H. Their lamps had been burning and now needed trimming and refilling with oil, verse 7.
- I. The foolish had no extra oil and tried to borrow from the wise, but the wise would not lend, verses 8-9.
- J. The five wise accompanied the groom to the party and were welcomed, verse 10.
- K. The five foolish bought oil and came to the party but were not allowed to enter, verses 11-12.

II. The interpretation of the parable.

- A. Keep in mind that a parable is a story which teaches a lesson and not every detail of the parable carries a special meaning. (Some of the details merely help to complete the story.)
 1. For example, the five and five do not teach that fifty percent are saved and fifty percent unsaved. (Not in the human race and not in professed Christianity.)
 2. Neither does the oil represent the Holy Spirit and hence salvation.
(The five foolish had oil at first. They also had oil at the last.)
 3. The five wise virgins do not represent the Glory Bride of Christ.
(In the parable they do not marry the groom at all.)
- B. Jesus Himself gave the interpretation of the parable, verse 13.

1. The five wise represent those who prepare for the coming of Jesus through repentance and faith. (They will enter into His glory.)
2. The five foolish represent those who do not prepare for the coming of Jesus through repentance and faith. (They will be shut out and not allowed to enter.)

Conclusion: In spite of all the warning, some people will be unprepared. Have you been wise enough to prepare? If not, are you wise enough now to prepare? Will you be so foolish as not to prepare at all?

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