

# The 10 Virgins—why our submission to God’s Spirit is imperative

Matt 25:1-13 (Jesus) Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

2-4 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5-7 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet Him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed (checked on) their lamps.

8-9 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with Him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

11-12 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But He answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. (*Let's now consider what each part of this parable means:*)

**Verse 1** (Jesus) Then the kingdom of heaven (of God) shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

*What is the kingdom of Heaven?* Rom 14:17 The kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The Kingdom is living in God’s presence. The Holy Spirit is God’s presence. As opposed to a place without Him, hell, created originally for Satan.

*Who is the bridegroom?* Jesus Christ - *Who are the 10 virgins?* Born again Christians:

2 Cor 11:2 ...**For I have betrothed you** (Christians) **to one husband**, that I may **present you as a chaste virgin** (pure and clean from sin) **to Christ**.

A B Simpson in his “Christ in the Bible Commentary” Volume 4 Pgs. 131-132 states that the 10 virgins were “followers of Christ”. They were “virgins, which denotes purity (from sin)”. They all “had light, representing the light of (spiritual) life”, and they were “all looking for the coming of the Lord (the bridegroom)”. The virgins represent born again Christians.

**Verses 3-4** Those (Christians) who were **foolish** took their lamps and **took no oil** with them, but the **wise** (Christians) **took oil** in their vessels with their lamps.

*What does the oil represent?* The Holy Spirit

1 Sam 16:13 **Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon (anointed) David...**

Heb 1:9 **You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness...(The Holy Spirit)**

Luke 4:18 (Jesus) **The Spirit of the LORD (The Holy Spirit) is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor..."**

A B Simpson on page 132 of his commentary writes: "There can be little doubt about the meaning of the symbol of oil, it is always the type of the Holy Spirit. And so the lesson is most plain that the five wise virgins represent those Christians who have not only received Christ as Savior but have received the baptism with the Holy Spirit and have been brought into a personal relationship with Christ as a continuing indwelling source of light and power. The foolish virgins represent the great multitude of the Church of God who are willing to remain on a lower plain and not press on into the fullness of Christ".

The oil represents the Holy Spirit – 5 Christians have the Holy Spirit, 5 Christians do not.

**Verse 6 And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet Him!'**

*What does the coming of the bridegroom mean? The second coming of Christ.*

2 Tim 4:8 **There is laid up...the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give...to all who have loved His (second) appearing.**

2 Thes 1:10 **When He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints...(sin free ones)**

Rev 19:7-9 **...For the marriage of the Lamb (Jesus Christ) has come and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints... Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!**  
NKJV/  
MSG

The bridegroom's coming is Christ's return, for Christians made righteous by living in Him.

**Verses 8 And the foolish (Christians) said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, (they didn't have the Holy Spirit) for our lamps are going out (NKJV) are gone out (KJV)' (a living trust in God is about to die or has already died).**

*Why are Christians without oil, without the Holy Spirit, and in danger of losing their faith?*

Eph 5:18 **Do not be drunk with wine...but be filled with the Spirit (God commands us to always be under the control of His Spirit - so that Jesus can be our Lord).**

Acts 5:32 **..The Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who (continue to) obey Him**

1 Th 5:19 **Do not quench (extinguish) the Spirit (and risk your flame of faith going out)**

A wise Christian is Holy Spirit filled, the Spirit feeds him God's words, and his faith burns brightly as he stays yielded to God's will. This is only possible if he has died to his own will:

Gal 5:24 **...Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its...desires (its will).**

**Verse 9** But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

Why couldn't the wise Christians share their Holy Spirit? Because the foolish Christians were not repentant for their sin, they did not love righteousness and hate sin so they could be anointed (Heb 1:9 above). How were they to buy oil? Not with money (Isaiah 55:1) for the currency of heaven is faith. But first they would need to be cleansed of their sin and be restored to faith. Then, be willing to obey God and use that faith to receive the oil of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 3:2) – and all this provided there is still time. There wasn't:

**Verses 10-12** And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with Him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But He answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

*Why were the 5 foolish Christians rejected from the marriage and the kingdom of heaven*

Matt 7:21 (Jesus) **Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**

Matt 7:23 **And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness** (who disregard my commands – Amp - to have oil)

Without the Holy Spirit (the oil) our flame of faith dies and we cease to be known by God.

Jo 10:27 **My sheep hear My voice** (My Spirit) and I know them, and they follow Me.

Rom 8:9 (To Christians) **If any do not have the Spirit of Christ they don't belong to Him.**

*Does God guarantee heaven? Yes, to have the Holy Spirit is God's guarantee. If we stay obedient to the Spirit we belong to and are known by God, we're ready for the bridegroom.*

Eph 1:13-14 ...**The Holy Spirit**...who is the guarantee of our (eternal) inheritance...

**Verse 13** Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the **Son of Man is coming** (God pleads: stay filled with and led by the Holy Spirit)

Rev 16:15 (Jesus) **Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments** (stays righteous)...1 Thes 5:4 **But you, (true) brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.**

Our Father, the Father of our re-born spirits has made loving provision for every one of us His children, to live eternally in Heaven with Him. But many of us still choose to rule our own lives and won't have Him, by His Spirit, reign over us – how can we say we love Him? For by that choice we are without oil. If this continues, our lamps, our faith, our light of life, will go out and we will have forsaken our own mercy and deprived ourselves of heaven.

Heb 12:9 ...**Should we not then submit to the Father of our spirits, and live** (for ever)?

1 Jo 2:17 ...**Whoever keeps doing the will of God** (led by His Spirit) **will live forever**. TLB