

The Kingdom of Heaven Shall Be Likened to Ten Virgins

(Matt. 25:1-13)

Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them but the wise took flasks of oil along with them with their lamps (vs. 1-4).

Who are these ten virgins and why are they called virgins and not brides? Many suggestions are up for grabs, but it is hard to accept them in the context of the parable. YAHSHUA said, The kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins – who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. The oil in the lamps they were carrying to meet the Bridegroom is of great significance here. It is the subject of the matter because it separates the wise virgins from the foolish ones. They all had one thing in common: to wait for the Bridegroom. The difference was in how they were waiting. Five had their lamps ready to meet the Bridegroom. They knew His coming was imminent, so they waited for Him in readiness of their lamps. What does it mean in reality? Are we to wait for our Lord with a physical lamp filled with oil, or was YAHASHUA speaking in a figurative speech?

He also likened the kingdom of heaven to a man who was about to take a long journey and he called his servants together and entrusted them with his property (Matt. 25:14). The amount of oil found in the virgins' lamps could possibly indicate preparedness to meet the Bridegroom. In this case I see that these virgins are the same in faith. They are waiting for the same Bridegroom. But one thing missing in the lives of the five foolish ones was oil. Oil gives light; it guides the feet to walk the right path, one step at a time, in faith. Oil is light. It is the presence of the Holy Spirit of God in the life of the virgin who is wise and who is waiting for Him with His word in her heart, being vigilant through understanding of the signs of the times. Oil causes fire. The fire we need to rid of old and useless behaviors in order to wait successfully for the Bridegroom and to enter into His kingdom. Oil enlightens the understanding; the more oil the more understanding. As YAHSHUA said, For to everyone who has will more be given; and he will be furnished richly so that he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have will be taken away (25:29). The wise virgins are compared to the good soil that received the seed and produced hundreds times as much as was sown, some sixty, times as much and some thirty. For whoever has to him will more be given and he will be furnished richly so that he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away (Matt. 13:8, 12). These are the same words given in Matthews 25:29. The wise virgins are those found faithful and therefore ready to meet the Bridegroom.

Why wouldn't the other five virgins have enough oil in readiness to meet the Bridegroom? They were empty of God's word. They were waiting for Him without commitment to obey Him. They

were the church goers, without relationship with the Lord. They have no time to be at His feet to hear and learn from Him. His word is foreign to them. They believe what everyone is saying. Yes, they were physically at the right place; one looking at them could not tell the difference, until the mid-night call came: Behold the bridegroom! Go out to meet him! Obviously, they were not ready to go out to meet the Bridegroom. They could not go out without oil in their lamps. The way was obscure for them. They went then, the other direction to get oil and then to meet Him. One big mistake: the direction they took was the opposite direction. The little oil they had was taken away from them, when the Bridegroom replied to them: I declare to you, I do not know you (vv.12). "Many are called, but few are chosen". At the end of all things, the foolish virgins will not regard YAHSHUA'S return in spiritual readiness because they are spiritual foolish virgins.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to impart understanding to the knowledge of the words spoken by YAHSHUA. He told the disciples, You are cleansed and pruned already, because of the word which I have given you (John 15:3). His words are printed in the pages of our Bibles still speaking to us and cleansing us through the ministry of His Holy Spirit. Paul advised us to look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise, making the very most of the time, because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:15,16). He also advised the husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, that He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such things (Ephesians 5:25-27). The point I want to make here is that no virgin or bride of Christ who has not followed Him in obedience and sanctification will be presented to Him "in glorious splendor without spot or wrinkle or any such things". Instead he/she will hear from Him the awful words of rejection: I never knew you! They might say, But Lord in your name Have we not prophesied and driven out demons and done many mighty works? Do not these words show that these people had a position in the church? Or that they were well known among the Christian communities? Why is that that they will hear such words? It is because they are the foolish virgins. They look good on the outside; their appearances are well accepted by all, but not by God. He knows the heart of men. The door will be shut at them at the end of all things and they will be left behind. They are the tares planted among the wheat and only when the sons of God will be revealed, they will be rejected and condemned.

The apostle John in his first letter said, Beloved, we are now God's children; it is not yet disclosed what we shall be, but we know that when He comes and is manifested, we shall resemble and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope on Him cleanses himself just as He is pure (1 John 3:2-4). The wise virgin who has the hope to see Him, should be waiting for Him in sanctification and filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit- the Oil that will illuminate the way to Him. Readiness for His coming requires holiness. If you have the hope of seeing Him someday, or in a day that you do not know, will it not be wise to be in spiritual readiness at all times? Don't be foolish; be wise and ready for the Bridegroom!