

- Preparation Prevents most frustration
- The parable of the ten virgins: Matthew 25:1-13
- Morning Star Church Bible Study
- Rev. Kathy Smallwood- Teacher
- Rev. Dr. Beverly D. Frazier- Senior Pastor

LIFE LESSONS FROM THE PARABLES OF JESUS

Week 3

*Preparation
Prevents Most
Frustrations*

The Parable of the Ten Virgins




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Question: Have you ever found yourself in the place of frustration?

- Was it due to a lack of preparation on your part?
- Did you truly understand the task you were undertaking?
- Could it be that your priorities were misplaced?
- Had you depended on someone else to provide you with what you needed?
- Was it procrastination?
- Had you truly prepared.....



The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew 25: 1-13

¹ “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

⁷ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

⁹ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

¹⁰ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹ “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

¹² “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

¹³ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.



Jesus' Use of Parables:

- Frequently used parables to compare the kingdom of God to people or things that were part of life in Jerusalem and the surrounding communities.
- The disciples of Christ, both then and now, must apply the knowledge of the gospel and must have a great understanding of God's truths.
- As disciples of Jesus Christ, each of us must apply that knowledge to our own life until our behavior becomes aligned with God's divine purposes.
- When we apply gospel knowledge, we invite the Spirit to become part of our lives.
- After learning God's word, we apply that truth to our lives by exchanging bad habits for productive actions, evil thought for uplifting thoughts, the tendencies of the natural person for the spiritual being.

[Understanding the Parables of Jesus Christ, page xix]



Jesus Teaching During His Last Days Included the Parable of the 10 Virgins

- During the last days of his earthly ministry, while sitting on the Mount of Olives, Jesus prophesied to his disciples of many signs that would signal the season of his Second Coming [see Matthew 24:4-51].
- Jesus shared the parable of the ten virgins to encourage proper spiritual and temporal preparation for his coming.
- Jesus wants his disciples both then and now to understand Kingdom Principles. In addition, he wants us to be prepared for his coming and to be productive while we await his coming.



Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes

Kenneth E. Bailey

- The scene of the parable of the 10 virgins focuses on preparations for a wedding banquet that is to take place in the home of the groom.
- A great crowd of family and friends fills the house and pours into the street in front of the dwelling.
- As the crowd is gathering, the groom and several close friends are making their way to the home of the bride. From there the groom collects his bride and escorts her back to his family home, where the crowd awaits and the marriage feast will be held.
- In traditional village life in the Middle East, weddings take place during the 7 months of the hot and cloudless summer.



Through Middle Eastern Eyes

- The parable takes place at night, and among the guests are ten young women. Each of them has a lamp and of course all the lamps are lit.
- Women, young and old, always carry lamps.
- Their reputation and in some cases their personal safety, depends on the lamps.
- For young unmarried to move around in the dark without carrying lamps is unthinkable!
- The 10 young women are very circumspect in their behavior. All have lamps and each of the lamps is burning.
- But half have brought extra olive oil with them while the other half have not taken this precaution.



What Is Jesus Saying?

- **First**, the place of women. Equality between men and women was important to Jesus. This could have been a parable about 10 young men. The Church in the New Testament is always feminine; the bride of Christ is the mother of us all. Thus, it is appropriate that Jesus has here chosen women to act the part of the membership of the church, both wise and foolish.
- It took ten Jewish males to form a company for the celebration of the Passover.
- Ten males were required for a valid wedding ceremony.
- Jesus was affirming women by having them as the main characters in this parable.



What Is Jesus Saying? CONT.

- **Second**, there is the question of borrowed resources. The faithful borrow many things from each other. But they cannot borrow their own preparations for the coming of the kingdom.
- Commitment and the discipleship that follows can be neither loaned nor borrowed.
- Each believer must participate in the kingdom with his or her own resources.



What Is Jesus Saying? CONT.

- **Third**, is commitment to the long haul. Life in the kingdom of God requires commitment to the long haul. Advanced planning is necessary and reserves must be on hand. There is neither instant discipleship nor instant maturation in the fullness of the kingdom. The wise, thoughtful women knew it might be a long night and prepared accordingly.



What Is Jesus Saying? CONT.

- **Fourth**, are the reactions to failure. When things go wrong, due to poor judgment and other inadequacies, the resulting problems cannot be solved by shouting orders at neighbors and at the Lord in the manner exhibited by the foolish women.
- When short of oil, they screamed at their friends, 'Give us some oil'. When they arrived late and found the door of the house locked, they cried to the bridegroom, " Lord, Lord, Open the door".
- In the kingdom of God, barking orders at others is not an acceptable way to try to solve problems created by our inadequacies.



The Meaning of Lamps in the Scriptures

- Exodus 25:31-40 – God directed the making of the lampstand
- 7 lamps were to be created and set up so that they light the space in front of it
- Part of the temple worship
- I Kings 7:49 Solomon insured the lampstands were included in the temple. 5 on the right and 5 on the left of the inner sanctuary

Lamps in the Scriptures

- David proclaimed in his Song of Praise in 2 Samuel 22:29 “You, LORD, are my lamp, the Lord turns my darkness into light.” See also Psalm 27:1
- Solomon proclaimed in Proverbs 6:23 “For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life.”
- Job states in Job 21:17” Yet, how often is the lamp of the wicked snuffed out? How often does calamity come upon them, the fate God allots to his anger?”



John The Baptist



- Jesus said, "John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light."
John 5:35
- "There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light."
John 1:6-8

The Oil

- Used in tabernacle services in Exodus. See Exodus 20-21
- Oil was regarded as a symbol of honor (Judg. 9:9)
- While virtue was compared to perfumed oil (Song 1:3; Eccles. 7:1)
- The abundance of oil was a demonstration of blessing and prosperity (Job 29:6; Joel 2:24)
- Oil was a symbol of joy and gladness (Ps. 45:7), and in time of sorrow, anointing with oil was not practiced (2 Sam. 14:2)





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Oil and the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners ([Isaiah 61:1](#) TNIV).
- Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" ([Luke 4:20-21](#) TNIV)

Life Lessons From This Parable in the Natural

Prior Preparation:
Did you seek God
first


Proper Planning:
What was the plan
if any?

Anticipation
of possibilities of
what can go wrong

Clear
understanding
of what resources
you have and don't
have

Keen view
of the timelines

Do not depend on
others for what you
need and can do
for yourself



Life Lessons in the Spiritual

Be like the Wise Virgins – keep your lamps burning through your obedience to Jesus' teachings and the word of God.

Having a lamp indicates having hope in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Having a lamp which has already been lit means you have freely received the gospel of the kingdom.

The fact that the oil is put in the vessel signifies the good works in one's own body which no one else is capable of performing in one's stead.

The virgins are buyers of oil not sellers. Which means they are doers of the word. Be a doer of the word.

Do You Know What Jesus Said About You?

➤ Matthew 5:13-16 NIV

➤ Salt and Light

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

