

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Lesson #157

Text: Matthew 25

¹"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

⁶"And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' ⁷Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But 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.' ¹⁰And 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"Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' ¹²But 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 ^[b]in which the Son of Man is coming.

Matthew 25:1-13

THE USE OF PARABLES OF THE WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS

1. What is a Parable?

- a) A story
- b) It serves as a means of conveying significant spiritual truths

2. Some reasons why Parables were used by the Lord Jesus

- a) An effective teaching tool
- b) Significant truths are revealed
- c) They are easier to comprehend

- d) They are easier to remember
- e) They have great potential impact

THE PARABLE OF THE WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS

1. The Context

- a) A wedding feast
- b) A joyous and significant event

2. The Comparison

- a) The kingdom of heaven
- b) A joyous and significant truth

3. Wedding Customs

- a) The Engagement (Between families)
- b) The Betrothal (Formal promises are made)
- c) The Marriage (The bridegroom comes for the bride)

4. The number 10

- a) Talmudic information
- b) Quite usual to have 10 lamps ready for the Bridegroom's coming

5. Two words translated as "Lamps"

- a) Matthew 5:15 Luchnos
- b) Matthew 25:7 Lampas
- c) The 10 virgins were carrying "torches"

6. The Bridegroom

- a) The Lord Jesus coming for His Bride
- b) All should have been ready
 - i) Five wise virgins were ready

ii) Five foolish virgins were not ready

7. The Wedding Feast

- a) To celebrate the Marriage of the Bridegroom with the Bride
- b) All were invited
- c) But not all were admitted to the Wedding Feast

THE LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

- 1. Invitation to believe
- 2. Don't assume genuine faith in the Lord
- 3. True Faith would cause us to look forward to the Return of the Lord Jesus
- 4. The need to check our salvation is obvious
- 5. Don't be shut out of the Wedding Feast of the Bridegroom

NB

Marriage analogy

- 1. Hosea 2:2
- 2. Isaiah 54:5