

# 5 FOOLISH VIRGINS *and* WISE ONES

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## 5 Foolish Virgins and 5 Wise Ones

*Mt 25:1 "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom .*  
*2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.*  
*3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them.*  
*4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*  
*5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.*  
*6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.*  
*7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.*  
*8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.*  
*9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.*  
*10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.*  
*11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.*  
*12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.*  
*13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."*

Jesus' parable about the ten virgins is very important for us to study, especially in this end of age, because in this parable Jesus explained about the end times in tune with His explanation in the previous chapter, Matthew 24. And at the beginning of this parable, *Mt 25: 1*, the Lord Jesus very clearly implied, "Then (**At that time**) . . . ", meaning that this parable deals with the situation at the end of time.

In addition, this parable also exposes clearly that it relates to the kingdom of heaven, as recorded in *Mt 25: 1*, "Then shall **the kingdom of heaven** be likened unto . . . ." (KJV) or "At that time **the kingdom of heaven** will be like . . . ." (NIV)

Yet another thing that we need to learn from this parable is a most serious one, since it revealed that of the 10 virgins **only 5 entered the kingdom of heaven, while the other 5 went to hell.**

As children of God we certainly need to have a clear understanding what kind of people would be allowed to enter the kingdom of heaven, and what kind would be rejected or sent to hell. But at the beginning of the verse it is very evident that the ten virgins were children of God, as can be seen from 2 characteristics on this matter :

*Mt 25:1 "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom .*

The verse above described clearly that the ten virgins took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Here the lamp is one of the characteristics of God's children, because the lamp depicts God's Word.

*Ps119:105 **Thy word is a lamp** unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

Further on, it is mentioned that each of the ten virgins not only had her own lamp, but they also went out together to meet the bridegroom.

To meet the bride groom, or to welcome him is a very special term given distinctively to the children of God.

*Mt 22:2 "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son.*

*Rev19:9 And he saith unto me, "Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he saith unto me, "These are the true sayings of God."*

I fall of them were children of God, why then were some left behind and could not enter into the kingdom of heaven ?

Now, let us study this further.

The Lord Jesus divided the ten virgins into two groups : one group of 5 foolish ones and another group of 5 wise ones. Those who were considered foolish virgins were so called because they took their lamps without any oil, while those who were called wise took their lamps and also some oil in their vessels.

*Mt 25:2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.*

*3 **They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them.***

*4 **But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.***

The oil in the vessel was brought along on reserve to keep the lamp burning so as not to die out.

Then it is told that because they had been waiting along time for the bridegroom who tarried, the ten virgins slumbered and fell asleep.

*Mt 25:5 While the bridegroom tarried, **they all slumbered and slept.***

The above verse clearly records that they all, namely **the ten virgins slumbered and slept**. To be asleep is a condition when they missed the opportunity to add oil. This could mean that in the end times there will be a certain period when all of God's children can no longer add their knowledge about the Word of God in their lives. What does it mean ? It means that in the end times there will be a certain period when **all God's children would no longer be able to read or listen to the**

**Word of God.** Why so ? This could happen because the churches would be closed or changed into a place of worship for other religions, and it would be difficult for God's children to get a Bible. Why would it be difficult at that time to get the Bible? Because then Bibles would be confiscated and destroyed, and very likely even any child of God caught reading the Bible would be severely punished. Hence the knowledge of God's Word that the children of God could have would be limited only to what they had understood till then, while thereafter they no longer could increase their knowledge of God's Word or study more about it.

The next verse states :

*Mt 25:6 And **at midnight there was a cry made**, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.*

Suddenly, in time of persecutions and difficulties, depicted by the term "**at midnight**", the signs of the coming of the Lord Jesus appeared, "**there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him!**" (Read Signs in The Sky of The Coming of The Lord Jesus, Chapter IV).

When the signs of the coming of the Lord Jesus appeared, the ten virgins woke up, but the five foolish ones found their lamps were gone out.

*Mt 25:7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.*

*8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; **for our lamps are gone out.***

What does it mean that the lamps were gone out ?

The lamps were gone out depicts **the life of the wicked**, as described in several verses below :

*Pr13:9 The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.*

*Pr24:20 For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.*

*Job 18:5 Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine.*

**What is the life of the wicked really like ?**

The wicked are **God's children**, but whose life is **worldly** or **carnally**, such as described in some verses below :

*Ps1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

- The wicked are those who stand in the way of sinners. Here it means that though they are children of God they walk their daily life just the same as sinners, showing no fruit of repentance.

*Jn15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away : and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

- They who sitteth in the seat of the scornful or mockers. This points to them who can not control their tongues and speak very carelessly :

*"Jas 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."*

The Lord Jesus said that for every idle word spoken the person who uttered it would have to give account on the day of judgment:

*"Mt 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."*

Even the Lord Jesus further emphasized that:

*" Mt 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shall be condemned."*

Thus it becomes clear to us that who ever utters idle words more over mockery will be condemned. Therefore, let us speak according to what God wants, namely:

*"Heb13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."*

- Another characteristic of the wicked is that they are people who do not seek nor study the Word of God :

*Ps119:155 Salvation is far from the wicked: for they seek not thy statutes.*

Actually the Lord Jesus very clearly stated in the Great Commission :

*19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (NKJV)*

To be a “**disciple**” means to have the desire to be “**taught**” and to “**learn**”. What is to be taught to us, and what do we have to learn? “Everything Jesus commands us”, all God’s commandments, the Word of God. And we have to obey or to carry out all those commandments. *Ps18:21 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.*

Let us not become wicked, as God's children but who do not know the LORD God, do not know His laws and do not obey Him. The wicked like to sin, because they do not truly follow the LORD. And even though they want to obey, they do not know what to do, because they do not know the LORD and His laws.

*Ps 36:1 The transgression of the wicked saith within thy heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.*

- The life of the wicked is also evident in their way of spending their money as described below :

*Pr10:16 The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.*

Many people judge a person by his/her appearance, education, position or speech. Yet, actually the simplest way to evaluate a person is by the way he/she spends his/her money. So, as the saying goes, “Give me the detail account of the expenses of someone, then I will tell what kind of a person he/she is”.

The appearance and speech of someone can be deceiving, but how one spends his/her money will clearly tell the true character of the person. The wicked spend their money they earn on things that lead to sin. On the contrary, the righteous spend their money properly in accordance with the law of God.

Another characteristic of the wicked related to money is that they do not like to pay their debts even though they are able to do so.

*Ps 37:21 The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.*

- Furthermore, the wicked are those who stay away from God; they become less and less interested in worshiping God. At first, they used to read the Bible diligently, but now they never touch the Bible. At first, they loved to join the ministry, but now they withdraw completely from any ministry. They even scarcely pray, or when they do it is just a habit, or only lip-service.

*2Sam 22:22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.*

- Another characteristic of the wicked is arrogance and they tend to persecute or put pressure on others.

*Ps10:2 The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.*

We know that the Lord hates those who are arrogant :

*Isa2:12 For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low.*

- From the few examples above, we know that the wicked are not the non-believers who do not know God, but God's children. However, in following the LORD God they still retain their old sinful lives; they do not want to change. Instead, they indulge themselves even more in their sins because they think that God will surely forgive them.

*Gal 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*

- Or, they are children of God who turn back to their old sinful lives.

*2 Pe2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.<sup>21</sup> For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.<sup>22</sup> But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."*

That is why when there is still a chance to repent, let us leave our old way of life which is not pleasing to God and start right now to lead a new life, a God-fearing life, to know God, to know His laws and obey His commands.

*Isa55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

Furthermore, in the above parable Jesus explained that the wise virgins could not share their reserved oil and suggested the foolish virgins to go and buy it from the

seller. But when the foolish virgins were away the long expected bridegroom came. The five wise virgins went along with the bridegroom into the banquet hall and the door was shut.

*Mt 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.*

*10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and **the door was shut.***

*Mt 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.*

*12 But he answered and said, **Verily I say unto you, I know you not.***

After the door was shut, then came the foolish virgins who tried hard to gain access to the banquet hall, but they were rejected with the following reason, "Verily I say unto you, I know you not".

We know from the beginning that the ten virgins were children of God. So how could God say, "Verily I say unto you, I know you not?".

Did God break His promise ?

No ! God always keeps His promise.

*Dt 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;*

If our God always keeps His promise, why then did God say that He did not know the five foolish virgins ?

God said He did not know those five foolish virgins because they had already denied Him!

*2 Ti 2: 12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: **if we deny him, he also will deny us;***

How could the five foolish virgins deny the LORD their God? They were children of God, weren't they ?

There will be many children of God who would deny God or turn away from Him. This had been reminded by the Lord Jesus again and again, both through parables and by frank explanations.

In the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:4-15) some seeds were sown on rocky ground :

*Mt 13:5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth.6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.*



Then the Lord Jesus explained the meaning :

*Mt 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: **for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.***

In His explanation about the end times the Lord Jesus very clearly said that children of God will be persecuted :

*Mt 24:9 "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake."*

and they who accept the Word of God yet do not practice it, who are called the wicked, will turn away because in their Christian life they are not rooted in Christ. They have not experienced God's power in their actual life, so their faith is not firm and they prone to let go of their faith and become apostates:

*"Mt24:10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another."*

In addition, since the foolish virgins had little knowledge of God's Word, which was depicted by having no reserve oil in their vessels, so they were easily misled or deceived by false messiahs and false prophets/false teachings.

*Mt 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

About the large quantity of the wicked, who are actually in sincere God's children, and will be seduced by the wiles of false messiahs and false prophets, is also recorded in the Book of Daniel:

*Da11:32 And such as **do wickedly against the covenant** shall he **corrupt** by flatteries: but **the people that do know their God** shall be strong, and do exploits.*

The verse above very distinctly explains that those who survive and remain strong in their faith are **those who know their God**.

It becomes clear to us that a strong faith must have a strong root which means to study the Word of God diligently and do it, because only then will we be able to gain true knowledge of our God.

This parable of the ten virgins is then closed with :

*Mt 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*

We certainly do not know when we will pass on and be brought into God's presence, whether at the time of rapture or at the moment God the Father calls us home, which can happen anytime. Therefore we ought to be alert, to prepare ourselves.

## Profile of The Writer



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