

The Wise Virgins and the Oil

Matthew 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.

In this parable, we are shown ten virgins. Five are wise and five are foolish. What sets the wise apart from the foolish?

The wise virgins :

- used wisdom
- had lamps
- had oil

The foolish virgins:

- were foolish (did not use wisdom)
- had lamps
- had no oil

Both wise and foolish virgins had lamps. Now we know that the Word is the lamp and a light. (Ps. 119:105 “Thy **word is a lamp** unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”)

So then,

The wise virgins :

- used wisdom
- **had the Word**
- had oil

The foolish virgins:

- were foolish (did not use wisdom)
- **had the Word**
- had no oil

Now, what is the oil?

Psalm 141:5 “Let the righteous smite me: it shall be a kindness; and **let Him reprove me: it shall be an excellent oil,**”

It is the submission to and acceptance of reproof from our Heavenly Father when we have gone astray. (Or, for that matter, when we learn we have been brought up contrary to His truth.)

The Wise Virgins and the Oil

In other words, the oil in the lamp is the wise virgins allowing YHWH to correct them of their errors. Rather than hanging on to false doctrines and inherited lies, the wise virgins seek truth and cling to righteousness rather than the errors of religion. When shown their error they forsake those ways, even if it hurts, they turn to the truth.

So then,

The wise virgins :

- used wisdom
- had the Word
- accepted correction
(of doctrine)

The foolish virgins:

- were foolish (did not use wisdom)
- had the Word
- did not accept correction (of doctrine)

So what makes the virgins wise?

Deuteronomy 4:5 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. 6 **Keep therefore and do [them]; for this [is] your wisdom** and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation [is] a wise and understanding people.

Wisdom is the keeping of the commandments.

Psalms 111:10 "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do *his commandments*: his praise endureth for ever."

Knowledge is the gathering of information. Wisdom is the application of that knowledge. It's not enough to know the commandments, (to "have" them in the Word). The Word shows us we are to do or to apply them. In fact, it shows understanding when we do them.

So finally:

The wise virgins :

- did the commandments
- had the Word
- had accepted correction
of doctrine

The foolish virgins:

- did not do the commandments
- had the Word
- did not accept correction of doctrine

A believer who rejects Truth in favor of their pet doctrines or rites and rituals, no matter how well intended, has chosen the foolish virgin camp. Time is short, check your hearts. Pray that you are accounted worthy to escape the things to come.