

# IF THE RAPTURE IS TRUE, ARE YOU READY?

RC BLAKES

MATTHEW 25:1-13 (KJV)

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.

This parable is a continuation of a conversation Jesus started with his disciples in the previous chapter. In Matthew 24 Jesus tells them what will happen at the end of the age. He gives them the signs that will signify that his return is near. After letting them know of these signs, Jesus tells them this parable of the 10 virgins.

## 1. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS WHAT WAS IN THE LAMP

They were all virgins and they all had lamps. In the end, the thing that made the eternal difference was what was in the lamps. To the world all ten of them looked the same. The difference was in the parts that were not on the surface.

1 Samuel 16:7 (KJV)

7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height

of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

### **IMPACT POINT**

**Having A Form of Godliness Is Not Sufficient. Everyone of Us Has to Have an Authentic Relationship With Christ**

ROMANS 8:8-9 (KJV)

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

## **2. THE OIL WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT**

### **IMPACT POINT**

**The lamps had to be filled with oil for them to be ready. The oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit makes us ready for the coming of the Lord.**

EPHESIANS 4:30 - 5:1 (KJV)

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

### **A. Holy Spirit Convicts Us**

JOHN 16:7-12 (KJV)

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. 12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

## **B. Holy Spirit Empowers Us**

EPHESIANS 5:17-18 (KJV)

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

## **3. THEIR LAMPS WERE EMPTY OF OIL BECAUSE THEY FELL ASLEEP**

### **IMPACT POINT**

**The Bible says they slumbered. They had gotten so comfortable they failed to do what they needed to do to be prepared.**

## **4. THE CALL TO MEET THE BRIDEGROOM CAME SUDDENLY**

2 PETER 3:10-13 (KJV)

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the

coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

## **5. YOU CAN'T GET READY AFTER THE FACT, YOU HAVE TO BE READY**

MATTHEW 7:21-24 (KJV)

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. 24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: