

## Walking With Jesus

### “Parable of the 10 Virgins”

#### Matthew 25

“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.

- There were 10 Virgins...
- There is an understanding that they all had preserved themselves for this very moment...
- They all were characterized the same as far as character goes...
- It doesn’t separate them based upon 5 doing good, and 5 doing bad...
- It doesn’t say that 5 had been unfaithful...
- or that 5 had been wondering off in affairs...
- The Ten Virgins is not a parable about Good and Bad...
- It’s a Parable about Readiness...

## **The Ten Virgins were separated into two groups the Wise and the Foolish...**

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.’

Do you see this?

It wasn’t that the 5 foolish didn’t bring oil in their lamp.

They had oil in their lamp because it says after they woke from their sleep, “our lamps are going out.”

But it says of the Wise Virgins vs. 4 “The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.”

Have you ever heard the saying “Hope for the best, but plan for the worst.”

- That’s exactly what the wise virgins did...

Jesus taught in Matthew 24 about the sign of his coming... and what it will be like... and what we must endure before the coming of the Lord...

- This ties closely to what Jesus is teaching in the Parable of the Virgins

### **To Be Numbered Among the Wise**

#### **1. We Must Persevere**

## Matthew 24

3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

4 Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many.

6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

9 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- The story of the 5 foolish Virgins is that they were not prepared for the long haul...

## Matthew 25

*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.’

All 10 Virgins became drowsy and fell asleep the wait took so long.

The 5 Wise Virgins took extra oil...

The 5 Foolish Virgins did not take extra oil...

The 5 Foolish weren't ready to go the extra mile...

Their lamps only had enough oil for a short, convenient, hurry up and get here wait...

But Jesus warns them your going to have to endure this before I come...

Oh yeah and that to...

False Messiah's and people falling away...

Wars & Rumors of Wars...

Nation rising against nation

Kingdom against Kingdom

Famines & Earthquakes in various places

Persecution and Death

Being hated by all Nations

False Prophets

Wickedness that makes hearts grow cold

Oh Friend...Do you have enough Oil to Persevere?...

Jesus says to his Disciples... 13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

## To Be Numbered Among the Wise

### **2. You Must Be Ready**

#### **Matthew 24**

36 "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one

will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

### **To Be Numbered Among the Wise**

#### **3. We Must Prayer**

##### **Vs. 42-44**

42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Keeping watch is connected to prayer through out the Bible

The Watchmen on the Wall (Ezekiel 3 & 33)

The ear of the watchmen is attuned to the Lord

As we open the new year in prayer and fasting (January 8-12) that is our objective...

Hearts and Minds... Ears and Eyes attuned to the Lord...

Keeping watch...

### **To Be Numbered Among the Wise**

#### **3. We Must Continue in God’s Word**

##### **Vs. 45-47**

45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the

proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. 47 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

This reminds me when Jesus said to Peter “Feed my Sheep”.

We are called to be faithful and wise servants who love God’s Word and give God’s word to people around us.

I believe we are living in the day when the Extra Jar is needed...  
it’s not enough to light the lamp, we need the Extra Jar to be endure...  
We need the extra Jar because we need to go the extra mile...

Closing:

**There is an Oil for Persevere**

**There is an Oil for the Suddenly’s**

**There is an Oil for Prayer**

**There is an Oil for God’s Word**

## **Isaiah 61**

“The Spirit of the Lord God *is* upon Me,  
Because the Lord has anointed Me  
To preach good news to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives,  
And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound;

2

To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,  
And the day of vengeance of our God;  
To comfort all who mourn,

3

To console those who mourn in Zion,  
To give them beauty for ashes,  
The oil of joy for mourning,

The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;  
That they may be called trees of righteousness,  
The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”