

Becoming a Wise and Watchful Woman: Lessons from the Parable of the Ten Virgins

God is looking to raise up wise and watchful women in these times - those who live full of the Spirit, are rooted in the Word, and are attentive to His voice. This calling isn't just for our own benefit, but for our families, friends, and everyone in our sphere of influence.

People are watching us - observing what we say, how we respond to situations, and even what we choose not to say when everyone else is speaking. We should be continually growing, going from faith to faith and glory to glory. As we experience God through His Word and Spirit, we can't help but be changed.

What Does Heaven Ask of Us Today?

Heaven is asking a simple but profound question: Are you living ready? God needs women who will stay full of the Spirit and live in a state of readiness.

The good news is that we don't have to do this alone. The Holy Spirit is our helper in everything, especially in becoming doers of the Word. When we're not doing the Word, we're deceiving ourselves - not others, but ourselves.

Understanding the Parable of the Ten Virgins

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells a prophetic parable about ten virgins:

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them. But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard, 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'"

All ten were virgins (believers), all were invited, all had lamps, and all were waiting. But only five were ready when it mattered. The question is: how can we be sure we're among the wise ones?

What Makes a Woman Wise According to Scripture?

The Greek word for "wise" in this passage means "prudent" or "sagacious." Prudent means "acting with or showing care and thought for the future." Sagacious means "having or showing deep understanding and good judgment."

The wise virgins weren't just living for the moment - they were living for eternity. They understood that moments should motivate us and prepare us for the future.

Proverbs 9:10 tells us, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." If we want to be wise, we must first develop a proper fear and reverence for God. The church today needs to return to the fear of the Lord.

Wisdom isn't just knowledge - it's knowledge applied in obedience. When we have knowledge and apply it to our lives, that's wisdom.

What Makes a Woman Foolish?

The Greek word for "foolish" in this passage means "dull and stupid." This isn't about intelligence but about spiritual sensitivity. Foolish people become dull to the Spirit's leading and insensitive to His voice.

When we don't follow the convictions of our heart, we put another layer around our heart, callousing our spirit. Each time we ignore God's prompting, our hearts get harder.

The foolish virgins knew the wedding was coming, but they did not prepare.

How Do We Prepare Like Noah Did?

Hebrews 11:7 says, "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark."

Like Noah, we are being divinely warned. We need to move with godly fear and prepare. Preparation time is not done - we must keep preparing. For some, today might be the day to freshly give God back your heart and ask Him to remove those hard calluses.

What Was the Difference Between the Wise and Foolish Virgins?

The key difference was the oil. "The wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps." Oil represents the Holy Spirit. A lamp won't work without oil, just as the Word doesn't work without the Spirit. The Spirit gives life to the Word.

The wise had not only the Spirit within (salvation) but also the Spirit upon them (the baptism of the Holy Spirit). They lived filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 tells us to "be filled with the Spirit." In the original Greek, this is a continuous action - "be ye being filled." It's not a one-time event but a lifestyle of being constantly filled.

Can You Borrow Someone Else's Oil?

The parable teaches us that you can't borrow someone else's oil. You need your own. As we mature spiritually, we can't live off someone else's faith. Others can add their faith to yours, but your faith must be growing in you.

Yesterday's oil is not sufficient for today. We need fresh oil every day. Our lamps need to be burning with both the Word and the Spirit.

What Happens When the Bridegroom Comes?

"At midnight a cry was heard, 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'" Midnight represents the darkest time and an unexpected timing.

All ten virgins arose and trimmed their lamps, but the foolish realized they didn't have enough oil. They asked the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out."

Interestingly, the wise answered "no." Sometimes the wise answer is no. This doesn't sound like love to many people, but it was the prudent response. The wise virgins didn't know how much oil they would need, so they couldn't give any away.

Why You Can't Pour Out Without Burning Out

You will burn out if you pour out rather than overflow. We need to be filled to the rim with God for ourselves first, and then the overflow is for others. This is why people burn out in ministry - they're pouring out instead of overflowing.

"And 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." The Greek word for "ready" means "prepared." Some will be shocked when the door is shut.

How Can We Watch and Be Ready?

Jesus concludes the parable saying, "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

The Greek word for "watch" means "to keep awake, to be vigilant, to give strict attention to, to be cautious." We can't expect to be careful on that day if we're full of cares every day now.

We must cast our cares on the Lord, for He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). This doesn't just mean God cares about us (though He does). It means He will care for those concerns on our behalf. We hand our cares over to Him, and He takes responsibility for them.

Life Application

A wise woman:

- Plans ahead and prepares
- Doesn't wait until crisis to start preparing
- Prays and watches
- Doesn't waste time whining or worrying
- Guards her spirit from distractions and compromise
- Protects her heart from becoming dull
- Knows what matters eternally and builds her life accordingly

Ask yourself these questions this week:

- Am I living ready, or am I just living for the moment?
- Where have I allowed my heart to become dull or callous to God's voice?
- Am I filled to the rim with God, or am I trying to pour out what I don't have?
- What cares do I need to cast on the Lord today?
- What specific preparations is God calling me to make in this season?

This week, commit to spending time daily being filled with the Spirit through prayer and the Word. Identify one area where you've been foolish rather than wise, and take a specific action to change. Remember, we're not just preparing for ourselves, but to help others be ready too.

Quotes

1. God is raising up wise and watchful women—those who live full of the Spirit, those who are rooted and grounded in the truth of the Word, and those who are attentive to His voice.
2. Your pulpit is out there, and people are watching you. They're watching what we do, they're watching what we say, they're watching how we respond and react each day.
3. You shouldn't be the same person you were yesterday. I don't want to be the same person I was yesterday. We're called to go from faith to faith and from glory to glory.
4. It's not a strive to change—it's just abiding, and you change.
5. We don't just seek Him and feel the need to cling in hard times—though we do. But we need even more to cling when things are going good too.
6. We cling to Him in the good, we cling to Him in the bad. We need Him all the time—in the joyful and the sad.
7. We want to be filled with the Word of God, filled with the wisdom of God, filled with the faith of God, filled with the love of God. That's what should come out of us. You can locate yourself when you're poked—what comes out? Is it bad, or is it good?

8. A wise woman says, “I might not see it yet—but I’m preparing anyway.”
9. The lamp won’t work without the oil, right? Just like the Word doesn’t work without the Spirit. The Spirit gives life to the Word, and without Him, it won’t ignite.
10. Filled to the rim with Him is for you. The overflow is for the things He’s called you to do.
11. Ministry is simply an overflow of your relationship with God.
12. You make preparation when you live in expectation.
13. You will burn out if you pour out—instead of overflow.
14. Some will be shocked when the door is shut.
15. We live full—full of Him, full of the Spirit, overflowing. Always ready. Always knowing.
16. You can’t expect to be careful on that day if you’re full of cares every day now.
17. Cast all your cares on Him, because He cares for those cares—and He’ll care for them for you.
18. A wise woman plans ahead—she prepares. She doesn’t wait for the crisis to start. She’s prepping, praying, and watching with a ready heart.
19. She guards her spirit. She doesn’t waste time on distractions or things that try to make her compromise. She protects her heart from growing dull—and keeps her eyes on what’s wise.
20. She knows what matters eternally—and she builds her life accordingly.

Verses

1. Matthew 25
2. Hebrews 4:12
3. Psalm 119
4. Proverbs 9:10
5. Hebrews 11:7
6. Ephesians 6:18
7. Jude
8. Philippians
9. 1 Peter 5
10. James

Summary

God is calling women to be wise and watchful in these times - filled with the Spirit, rooted in the Word, and attentive to His voice. The Parable of the Ten Virgins teaches us that being spiritually prepared is essential. While all ten virgins were believers waiting for the bridegroom, only five had enough oil (representing the Holy Spirit) when it mattered. Wisdom comes from fearing the Lord and applying knowledge through obedience. We must live in a state of readiness, being continuously filled with the Spirit, and preparing not just for ourselves but to help others be ready too.