

# THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

PART # 15

9-8-24

MATTHEW 24 AND 25; MARK 13; LUKE 21

MATTHEW 25: 1 – 13 - TEXT

Matthew chapter 25, has the next set of parables, that centers on “WATCHFULNESS” (READINESS), for the Lord’s return. All have the same basic themes – ignorance of the time of the Lord’s coming, the importance of vigilance, being prepared for the Lord’s sudden return, and ACCOUNTABILITY.

IN THE BOOK OF MATTHEW:

THE FIRST PARABLE – “THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE” – MATTHEW 24: 42 – 44 – WARNS OF THE UNEXPECTEDNESS, OF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST JESUS.

THE SECOND PARABLE – MATTHEW 24: 45 – 51 – “THE FAITHFUL SERVANT AND THE EVIL SERVANTS” – THIS PARABLE SHOWS THE IMPORTANCE, THAT MORE THAN PASSIVE WATCHFULNESS IS REQUIRED: THERE MUST BE BEHAVIOR ACCEPTABLE TO THE MASTER, IN THE MASTERS DISCHARGE OF ALLOTTED RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE THIRD PARABLE – MATTHEW 25: 1 – 13 – “THE TEN VIRGINS” – STRESSES THE NEED FOR PREPAREDNESS IN THE FACE OF AN UNEXPECTED LONG DELAY.

MATTHEW 25: 1 – “Then shall the Kingdom of Heaven be likened unto to ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom”.

“THEN” – Marks the progression in Jesus’ “Olivet Discourse”, presenting the third parable that has end times implications. Christ Jesus will illustrate the vital need, for every person to prepare for His return, for the time is coming when preparing will be as they say – “TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE”!

\*ONE THING THAT SEPERATES “THE WISE VIRGINS” AND “THE FOOLISH VIRGINS” – IS THE “DELAY” OF “THE BRIDEGROOM”!

\*THE MAJORITY OF MATTHEW 24 AND 25 (MATTHEW 24: 45 – MATTHEW 25: 46), DESCRIBES IN “THE LAST DAYS”, BEFORE “THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST JESUS” – THE DIFFERENCE – BETWEEN “THE POSSESSING AND FAITHFUL AND WISE SERVANTS” AND “THE PROFESSING AND EVIL AND FOOLISH SERVANTS”!

\*THERE IS 97 VERSES, IN MATTHEW 24 AND 25 AND THERE ARE AT LEAST, 53 VERSES, CONTRASTING THOSE THAT ARE, "THE POSSESSING FAITHFUL AND WISE SERVANTS" AND THOSE THAT ARE "THE EVIL AND WISE SERVANTS"!

MATTHEW 25: 2 – "And five of them were WISE, and five were FOOLISH".

"FOOLISH" – Is the Strong's Greek word # 3474, "MOROS" and is found 13 times in the New Testament Bible. This Greek word means "To be dull, sluggish, stupid, foolish, and a moral fool". This Greek word, is where we get the English word – "MORON"!

Here is another place, In the New Testament Bible, where those that are "WISE" and those that are "FOOLISH" is found and described:

MATTHEW 7: 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":

MATTHEW 7: 25 – "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and IT FELL NOT: for it was founded upon a rock".

MATTHEW 7: 26 – "And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and DOETH THEM NOT, shall be likened unto a FOOLISH MAN, which built his house upon THE SAND":

MATTHEW 7: 27 – "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the wind blew, and beat upon the hous; AND IT FELL AND GREAT WAS THE FALL OF IT".

MATTHEW 7: 28 – And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine":

MATTHEW 7: 29 – "For He taught them as one having AUTHORITY, and not as the Scribes".

MATTHEW 25: 3 – "They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them":

MATTHEW 25: 4 – "But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps".

\* In many Biblical passages, "OIL", is an emblem of the Holy Spirit (ZACHARIAH 4: 1 – 7) . Without "OIL", the wedding party was not READY, for the bridegroom. Without the Holy Spirit, no one is "READY" (ROMANS 8: 9), for the return of Jesus!

\*\* THE KEY TO CHRISTIAN "READINESS", IS TO BE CONSTANTLY, FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (EPHESIANS 5: 18) – BECAUSE WE ALL "LEAK" IN LIFE!

MATTHEW 25: 5 – "While the BRIDEGROOM TARRIED, they all slumbered and slept".

MATTHEW 25: 6 – "And at midnight there was a cry made, behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him".

MATTHEW 25: 7 – "Then all those virgins arose and trim their lamps".

MATTHEW 25: 8 – “And the foolish said unto the wise, give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out”.

MATTHEW 25: 9 – “But the wise answered, saying, not so; least there be not enough for us and you but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourself”.

\*THERE WAS THREE STAGES TO A JEWISH WEDDING IN THAT DAY.

(1). THE ENGAGEMENT – This was a formal agreement made by the fathers of the couple.

(2). THE BETROTHAL – This is the ceremony where mutual promises were made by the couple.

(3). THE MARRIAGE – This was approximately one year later, when the bridegroom came and an unexpected time for his bride.

When the bridegroom came, the bride-maids, who are attending the bride, when fourth to meet the bridegroom, with lamps lighted, to conduct him and his companions into the house, and to her who was to be the bride.

According to Jewish authorities, at that time, says that “TEN”, was the normal number in a bridal procession. It was the common size of a wedding party.

In this parable, the first two stages of a wedding ceremony was finished and now comes the third part, “The marriage” and the celebration of the marriage..

\* TO SEE “THE BRIDEGROOM”, AS BEING CHRIST JESUS, AT THE TIME OF THIS PARABLE, SEEMS REASONABLE, IN LIGHT OF MATTHEW 9: 15.

MATTHEW 9: 14 – “Then came to Him (Jesus) the Disciples of John, saying, why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not”?

\* MATTHEW 9: 15 – “And Jesus said unto them, can the children of the bride- chamber mourn, as long as the BRIDEGROOM IS WITH THEM? BUT THE DAYS WILL COME, WHEN THE BRIDEGROOM SHALL BE TAKEN FROM THEM, AND THEN THEY SHALL FAST”.

\* FOR CHRIST JESUS, TO SAY THAT HE WAS THE “BRIDEGROOM”, WOULD BE A BOLD STATEMENT, EARLY ON IN HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY BECAUSE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, “THE BRIDEGROOM”, WAS FREQUENTLY DESCRIBED AS GOD (NOT THE MESSIAH) AS “THE BRIDEGROOM”, AND ISRAEL AS THE “BRIDE” (ISAIAH 54: 4,5; JEREMIAH 2: 2; HOSEA 1 – 3)!

\* THIS IS A WARNING ADDRESSED SPECIFICALLY, TO THOSE INSIDE THE”PROFESSING CHURCH”, WHO ASSUME THAT THEIR FUTURE , IS “UNCONDITIONALLY” ASSURED (THE FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS DID NOT ORDER THEIR LIVES ACCORDINGLY, TO WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THEM, WHEN THE BRIDEGROOM “COMES”) BUT UNTIL THAT MOMENT OF THE BRIDEGROOM COMING - THERE SEEMS TO BE NO APPARENT DIFFERENCE, BETWEEN THE “WISE” AND “THE FOOLISH”!

IT IS ONLY AT “THE BRIDEGROOM’S COMING”, WHICH DIVIDES, “THE READY”, FROM “THE UNREADY” – FROM THE “MARRIAGE AND ITS SUPPER (DINNER) ”.

REVELATION 19: 7 – Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him (Christ Jesus): for THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB HAS COME (THE BRIDEGROOM HAS COME), and HIS WIFE (“THE TRUE BODY OF CHRIST” – ALL “TRUE BELIEVERS”), HAS MADE HERSELF READY”.

REVELATION 19: 8 – “And her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE SAINTS”.

\* THOSE THAT ARE “READY”, FOR “THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB (OF GOD)” – HAVE BOTH “POSITIONAL HOLINESS”, BY JESUS’ “WORK”, ON THE CROSS AND “PERSONAL HOLINESS” BY THE APPLICATION OF “THE WORD OF GOD”, TO THEIR LIVES (REVELATION 12: 11 – “BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY”)!

\*\* BEING “READY”, HAVING “POSITIONAL AND PERSONAL HOLINESS”, IN “THE LAST DAYS”, IS NOT ABOUT “DO I HAVE TO GIVE UP “THIS OR THAT” BUT RATHER, “I DON’T HAVE TIME, FOR “THIS OR THAT”, BECAUSE I HAVE MY PRIORITIES RIGHT, IN MY LIFE!

MATTHEW 25: 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”.

MATTHEW 25: 11 – “Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, LORD, LORD, OPEN TO US”.

MATTHEW 25: 12 – “But he answered and said, verily I say unto you, I KNOW YOU NOT”.

MATTHEW 25: 13 – “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein in THE SON OF MAN COMETH”.

The overall and easy to see, implication of this parable, is that Christ Jesus’ return, will happen in an UNKNOWN HOUR and HIS PEOPLE must be READY. Being “READY”, means preparing for whatever contingency arises in our lives and keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus at all times, while we eagerly await His Second Coming.

As seen in fact, that all the virgins were SLEEPING, when the call came, indicates that it doesn’t matter what we are doing, when Christ Jesus returns. We may be working, eating, sleeping, or pursuing leisure activities. Whatever it is, we must be doing it in such a way, that we don’t have to “MAKE THINGS RIGHT (GET MORE OIL) – when the bridegroom comes. This would apply to, either when Christ Jesus comes back for His “CHURCH” (RAPTURE) or for the “Tribulation Saints”, as they wait for the “CHRIST JESUS’ SECOND COMING”!

Being “READY”, for Christ Jesus’ return, ultimately involves one major thing that manifests itself in several areas of our lives. If we would be “READY”, for Christ Jesus’s return, we must be “BORN AGAIN”, to the “SAVING FAITH”, in Jesus Christ, that is found in His death, burial, resurrection, ascension (JOHN 3: 16; JOHN 14: 6; ROMANS 10: 9, 10; 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 1 – 4; EPHESIANS 2: 1 – 10).

“SAVING FAITH”, in Christ Jesus, will manifest itself, in every aspect of our lives and works. “The Fruit of the Spirit” (GALATIANS 5:22 ) will begin to show. A desire for greater Holiness and less sin will be apparent. And a consistent looking for His second coming, will mark our lives. One of the best passages articulating, what “SAVING GRACE AND FAITH”, looks like in a Believer’s life, is in TITUS 2: 11-14.

TITUS 2: 11 – “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation has appeared to all men”,

TITUS 2: 12 – “TEACHING US that, DENYING UNGODLINESS ANDWORLDLY LUSTS, we should live soberly, RIGHTEOUSLY, and GODLY, IN THIS PRESENT WORLD”;

TITUS 2: 13 – “Looking for that BLESSED HOPE, and the GLORIOUS APPEARING of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

TITUS 2: 14 – “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous for good works”.

The “FIVE VIRGINS”, who have the EXTRA OIL, represents the truly “BORN AGAIN” believers, who are looking for with eagerness, for the coming of Christ Jesus. They will have “SAVING FAITH”, and have determined that, whatever occurs, be it “LENGTHY IN TIME” or in “ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES, OR BOTH, when Christ Jesus returns, they will be looking with eagerness – FOR HIS COMING!

The “FIVE VIRGINS”, WITHOUT THE OIL, represents “FALSE BELIEVERS”, who enjoy the benefits of the christian community, without having a true love for Christ Jesus. They are more concerned about the “PARTY”, than about the longing to see the BRIDEGROOM (CHRIST JESUS)!

THEIR “HOPE”, IS IN THEIR ASSOCIATION, WITH TRUE BELIEVERS (GIVE US SOME OF YOUR OIL) AND THAT THIS WILL BRING THEM INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, IN THE END. This, of course, is never the case. One’s personal faith in Jesus cannot save another.