Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13
Parable of the Ten Virgins

Text:

Matthew 25:1-13,

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.
Introduction:

I. This is a parable of the second coming of Christ and of eternal judgment.

II. Analogies in this parable, according to James Burton Coffman:

   A. Kingdom of heaven – church.
   B. Bridegroom – Christ.
   C. Midnight arrival – second advent.
   D. Virgins – church members.
   E. Wise virgins – prepared Christians.
   F. Foolish virgins – unprepared Christians.
   G. Lamps – faith, works.
   H. Oil – faith, spirit.
   I. Sleep of virgins – the sleep of death.
   J. Tarrying of the bridegroom – delay of second coming.
   K. The midnight cry – the call to judgment.
   L. Refusal to give oil – merit is not transferable.
   M. Exclusion of the foolish – rejection of unprepared.
   N. The shut door – impossibility of changing our destiny once Jesus returns.
Commentary:

I. A that time ...

II. the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins

III. who took their lamps

IV. and went out to meet the bridegroom.

V. Five of them were wise and five of them were foolish.

   A. This was a select population. Fifty percent of the world is not wise.

   B. “Foolish” refers often in Scripture to the lost, unsaved.

      1. Psalm 14:1, The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

      2. Matthew 7:26, And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

      3. Luke 12:20, But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

   C. These were not wicked, immoral persons. They were simply foolish!

VI. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. This is like starting on a vacation trip with no gas in the tank.
VII. The wise took oil in jars along with their lamps.

   A. Both oil and lamps were required. Either without the other would have been inadequate.

   B. Did the oil represent the presence of the Holy Spirit or faith without works?

      1. Romans 8:9, 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. Hebrews 11:6, But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

      3. James 2:14, What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man says he hath faith, but have not works? Can (that kind of faith) save him?

         a. Here is a man who claims to have faith, but does nothing for those in need when he has the opportunity.

            i. Can that kind of "faith" save anyone?

            ii. No, of course not. That kind of faith is not saving faith that trusts in Jesus, but demons' faith (2:19).

VIII. The bridegroom delayed his coming a long time.

   A. If the bridegroom had arrived promptly the foolish virgins may have had sufficient oil for the occasion.
B. Many first century Christians believed Jesus would come very soon.

C. Jesus, however, made it clear that his second coming would be long delayed.

1. Matthew 24:48, But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

2. Matthew 25:19, After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

IX. All the virgins became drowsy and fell asleep.

A. This time should have been used by the foolish virgins to secure more oil; that is, while they had time and opportunity.

B. They slept in death!

X. At midnight the cry rang out: “Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!”

XI. All the virgins awoke and trimmed their lamps.

XII. The foolish virgins tried to borrow some oil from the wise virgins because their lamps were going out.

XIII. The wise virgins refused to lend any of their oil to the foolish virgins.

A. In fact, they could not have divided their oil with the foolish virgins. The foolish asked for the impossible.

B. Also, they had only enough oil for their own needs.

C. To have divided their oil would have caused them to be without light and to have been excluded from the wedding.
D. The wise virgins would have shared their oil with the foolish virgins if they could have done so. T

1. They did not have the power to share.

E. “Saints” do not have the ability to share their “excess” goodness with the less righteous.

1. In fact, no one has an excess of goodness.

XIV. The wise virgins concluded, “There may not be enough oil for both of us.”

XV. The wise virgins advised the foolish virgins, “Instead of borrowing from us, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.”

XVI. While the foolish virgins were on their way to the oil store, the bridegroom arrived.

XVII. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet.

XVIII. And the door was shut!

A. When Christ comes again it will be totally too late to change our standing before God.

B. Today is the day of salvation. We’d better get oil while we have time and opportunity.

1. Philippians 2:12-13, Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.
C. Thus, the only reason we can work anything out is that it is really God who is doing the work.

XIX. Later the foolish virgins returned and asked for admission to the wedding.
   A. “Sir! Sir! Open the door for us!”
   B. These five were virgins, pure and righteous, but they were not ready for the Bridegroom when he arrived.
   C. Consequently they were excluded.

XX. The Bridegroom replied, “I tell you the truth, I don’t know you!”

XXI. Lesson, Bottom Line: “... keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”
   A. Not knowing the day nor the hour of either death or the Lord’s second coming, we’d better watch with lamps trimmed and burning brightly with an adequate supply of oil in reserve.
   B. In death all, wise and foolish, physically “sleep.”
      1. At death our destinies are set.
      2. Nothing after death can be done to change our eternal dwelling places.
Parable of the Ten Virgins

Questions

1. The Parable of the Ten Virgins is a ________ of the _________
___________ of Christ and of _________ _____________________.

2. Parabolic analogies:
   Kingdom of heaven – bridegroom: ____________________________
   Midnight arrival: ____________________________
   Virgins: ____________________________
   Wise virgins: ____________________________
   Foolish virgins: ____________________________
   Lamps: ____________________________
   Oil: ____________________________
   Sleep of virgins: ____________________________
   Tarrying of the bridegroom: ____________________________
   Midnight cry: ____________________________
   Refusal to give oil: ____________________________
   Exclusion of the foolish: ____________________________
   The shut door: ____________________________

3. Fifty percent of these virgins were wise and fifty percent were foolish.
   This was a _____________________________. ______________
   _____________ of the world is not ______________.

4. “__________________” often refers in ____________ to the
   ____________, ____________.
5. The _____ took their ________, but did not take any ___with them.

6. But the _____ took ____ in their __________ with their ________.

7. What does “oil” represent? ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________

8. All the virgins became drowsy and fell asleep. What does this slumber represent? ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________

9. The _____________ delayed his coming. Suddenly, at ____________, the cry rang out, “Here’s the ____________!
   Come out to _____________ him.

10. Why did the wise virgins refuse to share oil with the foolish virgins?
    ____________________________
    ____________________________
    ____________________________
    ____________________________
    ____________________________
    ____________________________
11. The wise virgins went into the wedding with the bridegroom “and the door was shut!” What does this say about making ready after Christ returns? _____________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

12. How were the foolish virgins able to secure additional oil after the bridegroom came? _____________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

13. What good did getting oil after the bridegroom do the foolish virgins? _____________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

14. Not knowing the ________________ the ________________ of the ________________’s ________________ ________________, we’d better ________________ with ________________ ________________ and ________________ ________________ with an adequate ________________ of ________________ in reserve.
15. In ______________ all, ______________ and ______________, ______________ “____________.” At ______________ our ______________ are set. Nothing after ______________ can be done to change our ______________ ______________ ______________.