

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Sermon 72 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 25:1-13

Matthew 24 is divided into 2 parts or two related subjects.

70AD is addressed to the generation alive in Christ's day.

The future Second Coming of Christ is addressed.

Chapter 25 of Matthew can be divided into two parts.

Two kingdom parables

The final judgment which comes immediately upon the Lord's return.

"Kingdom parables" are not about some distant future 1,000 year millennium.

The point of the many of the Kingdom parables in the gospels are to explain life in our present New Covenant age. **1 Corinthians 15:24** – "Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power." **v. 25** – "For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet." (from Psalm 110:1)

1. In "Realized Eschatology" we see the Kingdom is in this present New Covenant age.
2. If the Kingdom is a future millennium, we cannot apply much of the OT or NT to ourselves.
3. Most Christians would recognize these 2 Kingdom parables are for this present age.

I. This Parable is very much like the Parable of the Soils (Matthew 13)

In the Parable of the Soils – we have 4 types of ground – but only one is a type of true conversion.

The wayside was seed that could never grow. Not a Christian.

The rocky ground. Not a true Christian.

The thorny ground. Not a true Christian.

The good ground. Matthew 13:23 – "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

II. The Parable Itself

5 virgins were ready for the wedding and waiting for the bridegroom – while 5 were not really waiting – because they were not prepared – they had no oil for their lamps.

v. 5 – They all fell asleep.

v. 3, 7 -- They all trim their lamp – but the foolish had no oil!

True assurance of salvation is possible – but many hypocrites are self-assured.

1. Some hypocrites are fully aware they are hypocrites.
2. Some hypocrites simply think too highly of themselves.

v. 6 – The Bridegroom came a midnight.
They would need their lamps for light.
The call came – and there was no time to waste.

v. 8-9 – easily misunderstood because it seems selfish.
The oil is saving grace and all the fruits of it.

1. We can proclaim the gospel (go to those who sell) but grace is not something we can give to anyone -- there is one mediator between God and man – the man Christ Jesus.
2. The 5 foolish had not gone to the source – God the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Benjamin Keach, one of the great forefathers of Reformed Baptists says,
“It may signify that the wise virgins would have the foolish see with their own eyes, and believe with their own hearts. Some people live upon borrowing; so would the foolish virgins. Some leave it to their ministers to believe for them...my minister is a learned man, I believe as he believes. Some also would have their parent’s faith serve as their own... and give a right to them, both to the promises and to ordinances. This is indeed like going to the wise for oil.”

v. 10 – The door was shut.
When Noah went into the ark – God shut the door.
When God opens no man can shut, and when God shuts, no man can open.

v. 11 – Too late

v. 12 – The horrible words “I do not know you”.
Similar to – “Depart from me, I never knew you.”

v. 13 – The application or point of the parable
5 entered into the wedding – and 5 were shut out and not allowed in.
In chapter 24 we saw this kind of division among people.
Noah and his family – divided from the rest of humanity.
Two men in the field – one taken, and the other left.
Two women grinding at the mill -- one taken, and the other left.
A faithful servant contrasted with an unfaithful servant whose end is Hell --**24:51**.

III. Final Thoughts