

The Ten Virgins

Intro. 1) Bible gives many little glimpses – marriage ceremonies ancient times.

Ex: Mt. 9:15 “Jesus saith unto them, can the companions of the bridegroom mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them?” (confirmed bachelors hate to see ranks thinned)

Another example of the attendants of the groom –

John 3:29 John the Baptist, “He that hath the bride is the bridegroom, that standeth and heareth him rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice: this my joy therefore is made full. He must increase, but I must decrease.” (John took it better than the ones in other passages.)

2) The Bride accompanied by attendants as well: Read Ps. 45:14-15

3) Apparently, the custom was:

Groom and attendants – House of bride’s father join bride and attendants – proceed to groom’s house or convenient place – joined on way by the waiting virgins who enter into feast with wedding party. As in Parable of Ten Virgins in Mt. 25:1-13.

I. Who were these virgins to represent? (vs. 1-4)

A. Christians – wise; Non-Christians – foolish (unprepared).

1. This principle is true (Mt. 7:24-27) – Wise and foolish builders.

2. But does not really fit the parable – both wise and foolish virgins were waiting for the Lord.

3. Whole chapter – Mt. 25

Virgins – waiting – 5 over-confident

Talents – working – one under-confident

B. I would understand – virgins – to be those who know of Christ’s coming and waiting for him.

1. They were not called good or bad. (Both were well-intentioned.)

2. Were called wise and foolish. (One group did not have the fuel to last the endurance.)

C. Purpose of parable – to impress upon Christians our need for vigilance.

1. Mt. 13:3-6 – Read (Express similar thought – Good intentions, couldn't last the long haul.)
2. Foolish virgins – wanted to enter – had prepared – but not enough
3. Wise virgins – realize – Christ may be long in coming – their cross may be one of self-denial, maybe long time before called from labors.
 - a. Takes principles to last the haul. (Spiritual depth)
 1. Not just impulse or emotion.
 2. Not just coat tail endurance.
 - b. First impulses will carry you but a short time in your life.
 1. You will fail and be lost . . . unless your motives are pure.
 2. . . . unless powered by the Spirit of God.

II. They fell asleep. (vs. 5)

- A. Both wise and foolish
 1. Seems to be no condemnation for sleep.
 2. Perhaps – both thought – done all that is needful – both calmly and securely awaited.
 3. Time passes . . . waiting . . . “nothing going on.” Millions said that when:
 - a. Alexander Great – Conquered World
 - b. Jesus the Christ – Spreading his Kingdom

III. At midnight – A shout (vs. 6)

- A. The time of deepest slumber.
- B. A time when one would least expect it: Read I Thes. 4:16-5:3
- C. There is a sense in which – that day – surprise to us all.

1. But Paul encouraged us to be sure we are well-prepared for his coming. (I Thes. 5:4-8 – read)
2. Folks, zeal runs out if not supplied from the reservoir of spirituality. Faith, love, hope, sobriety. The church is the store where you get these supplies.

IV. Give us of your oil (vs. 7-8)

A. Sorry, I cannot develop spiritual fuel for you – must acquire for self.

B. “Go to those who sell” (vs. 9)

a. Can just see on day of judgment:

1. Running to: Christian friends, mamma, wife
2. “I’m not ready.”
“I’ve been playing at Christianity.”
“All on surface – no spiritual depth.”
“He will say, ‘That’s why I don’t know you.’”

Does Jesus know YOU tonight?

Concl. 1) Awful (vs. 10)

2) “But while they went to buy, he came.”