



JESUS STORIES

Sunday May 26, 2024

Sermon Study Guide

Lee Towns—Jesus Stories: *Be Read, Live Accordingly*

Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, ⁴ but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. ⁵ When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ “At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!’ ⁷ “All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. ⁸ Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ “But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ “But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. ¹¹ Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’ ¹² “But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you!’ ¹³ “So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return. Matthew 25:1-13 NLT

COMMENTARY

e. **Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out:** The foolish virgins were unprepared because they lacked oil for their lamps. In many Biblical passages oil, is an emblem of the Holy Spirit (such as [Zechariah 4:1-7](#)). Without oil the wedding party was not ready for the bridegroom. Without the Holy Spirit, no one is ready for the return of Jesus.

i. Olive oil is a good representation of the Holy Spirit for many reasons.

- Oil lubricates when used for that purpose – there is little friction and wear among those who are lubricated by the Spirit of God.
- Oil heals and was used as a medicinal treatment in Biblical times ([Luke 10:34](#)) – the Spirit of God brings healing and restoration.
- Oil lights when it is burned in a lamp – where the Spirit of God is, there is light.
- Oil warms when it is used as fuel for a flame – where the Spirit of God is, there is warmth and comfort.
- Oil invigorates when used to massage – the Holy Spirit invigorates us for His service.
- Oil adorns when applied as a perfume – the Holy Spirit adorns us and makes us more pleasant to be around.
- Oil polishes when used to shine metal – the Holy Spirit wipes away our grime and smooths out our rough edges.

ii. No one can be a true Christian without the indwelling Holy Spirit, as it says in [Romans 8:9](#): Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. In this parable Jesus probably did not intend a separation between “Spirit-filled” and “Non-Spirit-filled” Christians; the distinction is likely between true Christians and false believers.

There were three stages in an ancient Jewish wedding.

1. The engagement where a formal agreement was made between the 2 fathers.
2. The betrothal – the ceremony where mutual promises were made.
3. The marriage took place approximately one year later when the bridegroom arrived at an unexpected time for his bride. And this is where the story in Matthew 25 begins.

- What details in the passage stand out to you and why?

- What is the overarching theme in this teaching, (The Olivet Discourse part 2)?

- Why is this critical to those who follow Jesus as Lord and Savior and those who do not?

4. If you have ever lost someone you loved unexpectedly you know the sense of shock, disbelief and ultimately the finality of their absence.

- This story has undertones of that inability to reverse the clock and to go back in time. How do you process the response in verse 12?

- How do you interpret Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3?

Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters,^[a] we don't really

need to write you. ² For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. ³ When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape.

- We are invited to follow Jesus as our Lord and savior and our lives will reflect that choice. **The Great Commission** also calls us to go out and share the Good News with others. So how are you living as *one ready* in light of today's message and sharing this message with others who do not yet know Jesus?

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 26: 16-20

- This week with the help of the Holy Spirit examine your life, how are you living as if Jesus might return at any moment?