

AT MID-NIGHT, A SHOUT



(Matthew 25)

YAHSHUA tells a parable of comparison illustrating the kingdom of heaven to ten virgins: five wise and five foolish. This parable not only is a warning consisting of preparedness, but it also reveals who will be taken and who will be left behind when YAHSHUA comes to meet His bride on the air.

The kingdom of heaven shall be likened to **ten virgins** who **took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom (vs. 1)**. “The number ten is the number of testimony. It stands for responsibility and its judgement or reward. Man was responsible under the Law to keep the commandments and bear a testimony for God.” (Dr. Ed F. Vallowe). The ten virgins were identified as carrying their lamps with the purpose of meeting the bridegroom. Let’s imagine that these virgins were Christians who Sunday after Sunday worshiped together in some church. They lived their life of faith in a way that indicated they had a relationship with God. Perhaps they were involved in activities of their church, as in Sunday School teaching, pastoring, visitation, perhaps they were deacons and leaders in some capacity in church. These were not only women, but men also. The tittle bride of

Christ applies to all professing Christians. They had some knowledge concerning the return of the bridegroom and prepared themselves as they saw fit. Five followed the Word of God and the other five simply followed what they thought to be right according to the interpretation of men, but empty of God's truth. Nevertheless, they had one thing in common: to meet the waited for bridegroom.



For that trip they needed their lamps to be filled with oil, for the wait could be long. Five of them were prepared with extra oil in case the bridegroom was tardy coming. The other five, however, had insufficient quantity of oil for the journey. They were the ones who lived their spiritual lives quenching the Holy Spirit to satisfy their fleshly desires. The oil remaining in them was not enough to take them to meet the bridegroom. To quench means to overpower, to extinguish and to put out. That's the difference that separated them. Oil speaks of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the true believer's life. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, confirms this truth when he wrote: In Him you also who have heard of your salvation, and have believed, were **stamped with the seal of the long-promised Holy spirit; He is the guarantee of our inheritance, an anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring possession of it - to the praise of His glory** (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Without being stamped with the Holy Spirit, a believer is not a believer in the integrity of the word. His spiritual life is fake and superficial. He is like a synthetic vitamin, which has no life to feed the living cells of the body; he is like GMO

modified foods, which harm and destroy the body. He is only a church member, but not a member of the body of Christ, although he walks and talks like one. In truth he is where he is to fulfill the purpose of the devil, who presents himself as an angel of light, but he is an angel of darkness. It is easy for these people to hide behind the pillars of a big church, as they get involved in many of the church's activities. As churches have become more like business and franchises, they have turned their deaf ear and blinded their eyes to people of such background because they have money; and money talks loudly in churches, too. One example of this fact is found in churches of several denominations when pastors, Sunday School teachers, deacons and many other church's leadership positions are Masons and following the occult's secret agendas. All will face the light the day when YAHSHUA appears. We see this in another kingdom of heaven story by way of comparison YAHSHUA told the disciples: the kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while he was **sleeping**, his enemy came and sowed also darnel among the wheat and went on his way. (Darnel is a weed that resembles wheat). It is hard to tell the difference between the two, until they mature. The Lord continues saying that when the plants sprouted and formed grain, the darnel (weeds) appeared also. And the servants of the owner came to him and said, Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Then how does it have darnel in it? He replied to them, An enemy has done this. The servants said to him, Then do you want us to go and weed them out? But he said, No, lest in gathering the wild wheat, you will root up the wheat along with it. Let them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest; and at harvest time I will say to the reapers, Gather the darnel first and bind it in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my granary (Matt. 13: 24-30).

Psalm 23 expresses the amazing act of the Shepherd toward His sheep in the anointing of their heads with oil. "He anoints my head with oil, my cup runs over." The anointing of the Shepherd overflows the believer with joy. That is the presence of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life. He fills his lamp with oil that brings joy, light, health, and strength. The five wise virgins were light of the world, because their lives were filled with the oil from the Holy Spirit. They lived a fulfilled spiritual life in the presence of the Lord and others. At the time of reckoning, they were ready and were welcomed in God's kingdom, while the other five were rejected and were left outside. They had quenched the oil – the presence of the Holy Spirit. YAHSHUA warns us with these words: Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does

the will of My Father Who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name? and then I will say to them openly, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who act wickedly (Matt. 7: 21-23).

This visibly parallels with the churches of today. Who would know the true believers from all those sitting on the pews of a church? They look as one, although not being one. The parable above says that “while the man was sleeping” his enemy sowed weed in his crop. Likewise, while the churches sleep the enemy -the devil fills their pews with people who are pretenders. He infiltrates them in positions even of the pastorate. They are pastors, Sunday School teachers, music ministers, you name it. They are like rotten apple in the midst of good ones. Their plan is to thwart the spiritual growth of the church and quench the work of the Holy Spirit.

Only the anointed bride, who is filled with the Holy Spirit will enter the presence of God that day when He sounds His trumpet with the shout of the angels summoning His own to meet Him. Blessed is the bride who has dressed herself in fine linen, dazzling and white- for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints (Rev. 19: 8). She will enter the presence of God and forever she will be with Him. Make sure that you are in the group of the five wise members of the bride, my friend.