

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP  
MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY**

**Study Series:** Speaking in Parables  
**Lesson 14:** The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Wednesday, May 10, 2023  
**Facilitator:** Minister Ivette Berrios

**Title:** *Understanding the Meaning of the Parable of the Ten Virgins*

### **I. Introduction (Matthew 25:1-13 NIV)**

*"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' 7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9 "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. 11 "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' 12 "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' 13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.*

In this Parable Jesus tells a story about ten virgins who were bridesmaids for a wedding procession. Each of the virgins carried a lamp or torch as they waited for the coming of the bridegroom, whom they expected to arrive at some point during the night.

It is important to understand the parable's message within its context. For example, in Scripture the wind that blew when Jesus calmed the storm was not the Holy Spirit, even though the Holy Spirit is often symbolized by wind, as seen on the day of Pentecost. The parable should be understood as an earthly story that communicates spiritual realities and applications.

### **II. Common ground within the Parable**

Though people have different interpretations, there is common ground:

- **Bridegroom: Jesus**
  - *John 3:26-30 26* They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him." *27* To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. *28* You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' *29* The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. *30* He must become greater; I must become less."
- **Bride: Corporate body of Christ, the Church**
  - *Rev 19:7-9 7* Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come and his bride has made herself ready. *8* Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.) *9* Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

- Bridesmaids: Types of Believers (Members)
  - *1 Cor 12:27* Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

### III. Cultural Context of Weddings in Ancient Jewish Culture

- Contract
- Leaving to build a house for the bride
- Returning for the bride and bridal party for a celebration
- Only known guest are welcome
- Wedding feast can last up to a week

### IV. Key Elements

**Lamp:** used to clear your path and identify if you were a wedding crasher – we are called to be the light of the world.

- *Matthew 5:14* <sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

**Oil:** in order to keep the light going, preparation, maintaining communion with the Holy Spirit

- *1 Cor 16:13* Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

**Cry at midnight:** the sound of the coming of the Bridegroom

- *1 Thes 4:16-18* <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**Shut door:** Feast has begun

- *Luke 13:25* Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open up to us!’ then He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’

### V. Practical Application

- Need for spiritual readiness and a relationship with Jesus Christ is essential – read scripture, pray, fast, and serve - *1 Pet 5:8* Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- Cultivate good works and a desire for the Holy Spirit – build a daily relationship with the Holy Spirit - *Eph 5:18* And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit
- Be a servant Leader - *Mark 10:44* and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.
- Do not be complacent or presumptuous in our spiritual lives - *Prov 13:4* The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.
- Fix your eyes on Jesus through the good and the bad - *Heb 12:2* fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. (let's read v. 1-3)

### VI. Conclusion

The Parable of the Ten Virgins teaches us to be prepared for the coming of Jesus by having a personal relationship with Him through the Holy Spirit. We must be ready, not only in expectation but also in preparation, by living a life that is pleasing to God and being committed to Him.