

Parables are simply stories that are told to show religious, moral or philosophical principles. They provide simple comparisons of things that naturally occur. The use of parables by Jesus are the keys to life, righteousness, holiness, balance and ultimately the keys to the Kingdom. The people, places, things, and situations reveal a temporal truth... but more than that they represent an eternal spiritual reality.

PARABLE	MATTHE	MARK	LUKE	John
Lamp Under a Basket	5:14-16	4:21,22	8:16,17	
.	.	.	11:33-36	
Bread of life				6:31-38
A Wise Man Builds on Rock	7:24-27	.	6:47-49	
and a Fool on Sand	.	.	.	
New Cloth on and Old	9:16	2:21	5:36	
New Wine in Old Wineskins	9:17	2:22	5:37,38	
The Sower	13:3-23	4:2-20	8:4-15	
The Tares (Weeds)	13:24-30	.	.	
The Mustard Seed	13:31,32	4:30-32	13:18,19	
The Leaven	13:33	.	13:20,21	
The Hidden Treasure	13:44	.	.	
The Pearl of Great Price	13:45,46	.	.	
The Dragnet	13:47-50	.	.	
The Good shepherd				10:1-18
The Householder	13:52	.	.	
The Lost Sheep	18:12-14	.	15:3-7	
The Unforgiving Servant	18:23-35	.	.	
The Workers in the Vineyard	20:1-16	.	.	
The Two Sons	21:28-32	.	.	
The Wicked Tenants	21:33-45	12:1-12	20:9-19	
The Wedding Feast	22:2-14	.	14:16-24	

The Fig Tree	24:32-44	13:28-32	21:29-33	
The Ten Virgins	25:1-13	.	.	
The Talents	25:14-30	.	.	
The Growing Seed	.	4:26-29	.	
The Watchful Porter	.	13:33-37	.	
The Creditor and Two	.		7:41-43	
The Good Samaritan	.		10:30-37	
A Friend in Need	.		11:5-13	
The Rich Fool	.		12:16-21	
The Faithful and Wise	.		12:35-40	
Faithful and Wicked Steward	24:45-51		12:42-48	
The Barren Fig Tree			13:6-9	
The Lowest Seat			14:7-11	
Building a Tower and Making War			14:25-35	
The Lost Coin			15:8-10	
The Lost Son			15:11-32	
The Shrewd Manager			16:1-13	
The Rich Man and Lazarus			16:19-31	
Unprofitable Servants			17:7-10	
The Persistent Widow			18:1-8	
The Pharisee and the Tax Collector			18:9-14	
Vine and branches				15:1-17
The Minas (Pounds)			19:11-27	

Matthew 25: 1-13 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five

were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' " '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.'"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. "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

Let's continue our discussion of "Are you ready". Last week we looked at the parable of the fig tree, and the reality of the rapture; two people are out in a field one is taken the other remain. The premise of the parable is that no one knows the time nor the hour. As we dive into the lesson for today; we find that it is not only "Are you ready" but also "Are you equipped". The equipping of the believer is the key to the being ready. If we were going to take a trip; we have to pack our luggage to be prepared for the journey that we are taking. If we are going to be away for 5 days but I only pack for 3 days, on the 4th day we are going to be in trouble. As we begin to look at the parable, once again we find Jesus making the statement that the "Kingdom of heaven will be like"... This has to always be foremost in the mind of the believer, "The Kingdom".

"ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom."

When looking at the parable it we have to be discerning of the who in this scripture:

Who are the 10 virgin representatives of? _____

"I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a **bride** beautifully dressed for her husband." Revelations 21:2

"One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the **bride**, the wife of the Lamb." Revelations 21:9

Who is the Bridegroom? _____

"Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the **bridegroom** fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them." Mark 2:19

"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." John 3:29

"Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their

lamps.”

Jesus within the lines of this parable shows us the distinction between those that come equipped and those that do not. It is of vital importance that the believers of God know the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Not just the name of Jesus, but the words of power that are given to us in the annals of scripture. We must take with us:

**“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”
Romans 8:37**

“Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Ephesians 6

As disciples of Christ, it is imperative that we be fully equipped just as Paul instructs us in the book of Ephesians. One thing that stands out in striking contrast between the wise and the old is that the wise took along the oil. Within scripture oil most often represents the anointing.

“Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.” 1 Samuel 16:13

That wise disciple, moves in, moves with and moves by the anointing of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

“The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

Jesus tells in the previous parable that no man knows the hour of the coming of the kingdom.

"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' " '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.'

When the trumpets blare and the heavens open up the eyes of the people will be open,

and the worst thing to be would be unprepared. I cannot give you the anointing, your grandmother cannot give you the anointing, momma not daddy can give you the anointing. No one but Jesus is able to save. It is the individual responsibility to be prepared.

"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' " '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.'"

Are you ready,

Are you equipped

The reality is that Jesus is coming back, we cannot let our guard down. We must be prepared.