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9-25-2023

## THE WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS

If you recall the story of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13, we learn that there were five foolish virgins and five wise. Both sets of virgins were waiting for the bridegroom to come and both sets of virgins brought their lamps. In Matthew 25:3 it says, ***“They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.”***

In Psalms 119:105 we read, ***“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”*** This lets us know that the word of God is the lamp. Oil represents the Holy Spirit. Both sets of virgins had the word of God, but only the wise ones had the oil.

Having oil is indicative of salvation. Yes, they were both virgins, but the foolish virgins had not received salvation while the wise ones did.

There was a long wait. Perhaps the bridegroom waited with anticipation that the foolish ones would realize they needed oil in their lamps. Both sets of virgins fell asleep during the waiting period. This is indicative of the state of those trusting God. For whatever reason, they slept.

In chapter 24 of Matthew, it tells us about end times and what it would be like when the Lord returns. Jesus is that bridegroom coming back for his “virgin” bride that has been cleansed by his blood, ready to receive him. As we put chapter 24 and 25 together, we realize that this story lets us know we need more than just the word to receive Jesus. We need the word and the Holy Spirit within “our vessels” which is our spirit to be ready.

Many think that good works will make them ready, but we are not saved by works. We are saved by faith. Faith believes without seeing and expects the promises to happen. The wise virgins prepared themselves with salvation, while the foolish ones only brought the word and no oil.

This scenario shows us that we must do more than know the word. We must be as James says in James 1:22 where it says, ***“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”*** The foolish virgins tried to buy salvation from the wise virgins, but it will never be bought. It comes through faith and when the bridegroom comes it will be too late for those that are foolish.

Let your life be prepared first by receiving Christ as Savior, then your lamp has oil in it. Then secondly, study and know the word so you can be ready for his coming and tell others about it too.