

## Lesson 3-3 The Ten Virgins

1. Nearly 2000 years ago, Jesus said He would return for those who are watching for Him and ready. In this lesson, we will be studying how to be ready for Him, knowing that He can return at any time.

Matthew 25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.  
 Matthew 25:2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.  
 Matthew 25:3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,  
 Matthew 25:4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.  
 Matthew 25:5 As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.  
 Matthew 25:6 But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'  
 Matthew 25:7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.  
 Matthew 25:8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'  
 Matthew 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.'  
 Matthew 25:10 And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.  
 Matthew 25:11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.'  
 Matthew 25:12 But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.'  
 Matthew 25:13 watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

2. Without reading ahead, who/what do you think is/are represented by the following : (To enhance your learning, work with a group. Don't be in a hurry to finish)

Virgins \_\_\_\_\_

Foolish virgins \_\_\_\_\_

wise virgins \_\_\_\_\_

The Bridegroom \_\_\_\_\_

The lamps \_\_\_\_\_

The flasks of oil\_\_\_\_\_

Marriage feast \_\_\_\_\_

The door\_\_\_\_\_

Light \_\_\_\_\_

The oil \_\_\_\_\_

The dealers\_\_\_\_\_

3. We can start by assuming that Jesus is the bridegroom. This can be confirmed by many Scriptures in the Bible. Do you agree?

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4. Now, let's start by looking at the lamps. Please read:

**Proverbs 20:27** The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all his innermost parts.

5. Therefore, according to Proverbs 20:27 and in your own words, what are the lamps?

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6. Next, let's consider the virgins. Did all the 10 virgins know who Jesus was?

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7. Were any of the virgins kind of wise or sort of foolish?

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8. Did all the ten virgins want to go to the wedding?

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9. Did all ten virgins have lamps and oil in their lamps?

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10. From the parable, there was one thing that the wise virgins had that the foolish didn't have. What was it?

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11. It appears that the key to understanding this parable is understanding what the flasks of oil represent. Do you have any ideas?

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12. We proposed that the lamps (with oil) represent the spirit of man. In the parable, the bridegroom was delayed and their lamps didn't have enough oil, but the wise virgins had an additional source of oil. Why, in your opinion, didn't all ten virgins have the additional source of oil?

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13. Please read the following Scriptures and see if you can see what the flasks of oil represents - remembering that it is what is required to keep our lamps burning:

John 3:3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' (Jesus - ESV)

John 14:25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (Jesus - ESV)

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,  
John 14:17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (Jesus - ESV)

14. Note: The flasks of oil, we believe, represents the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us an additional, abundant source of oil (the Spirit of God) that never runs dry. He is always with us, since He is in us. God has provided us with His Spirit so that no matter how long the wait, we are ready for the return of Jesus. Are you ready?

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15. Do you want Jesus enough to prepare for His return?

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16. In accordance with this parable, can you be ready for Jesus' return solely with the help of your church, or your friends?

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17. So, consider the following representations in this parable:

Virgins:

[Those who would like to go to the marriage feast](#)

Foolish virgins:

[Those who do not have the Holy Spirit living in them](#)

Wise virgins:

[Those who are Born again, i.e. having the Holy Spirit in them](#)

The Bridegroom:  
[\(Jesus\)](#)

The lamps (with oil):  
[The spirit of man](#)

The flasks with adequate oil:  
[The Holy Spirit](#)

Marriage feast:  
[The Celebration in Heaven after the rapture, but before the millennium - It is sometimes referred to as the Marriage Feast of the Lamb](#)

The door:  
[The end of the age \(some refer to this present age as the Church age.\)](#)

Light:  
[Truth](#)

The dealers:  
[Those who teach God's word](#)

18. To Do: We didn't provide background for all of the answers above, so please search the Scriptures and verify all of the above answers. Use the Holy Spirit to guide you in truth.

19. Conclusion: If you want to be ready for the return of Jesus, you must be born again. In Ephesians 1:13-14 it says that when you believed in Him you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance.

20. If you don't know how to be born again, please read our tract called "The way."

Note: If you miss the Marriage Feast, you still can be born again and be with God forever. These opportunities will exist during the tribulation period which will be discussed in the fifth series of this Bible study.