

THE TEN VIRGIN Parable



“I am often referred to the parable of the ten virgins, five of whom were wise, and five foolish. This parable has been and will be fulfilled to the very letter, for it has a special application to this time, and, like the third angel's message, has been fulfilled and will continue to be present truth till the close of time.”

RH, August 19, 1890

“Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation **not desired**; before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you. Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger." Zephaniah 2:1-3.

We are near the close of time. I have been shown that the retributive judgments of God are already in the land. The Lord has given us warning of the events about to take place. Light is shining from His word; yet darkness covers the earth, and **gross darkness the people**. "When they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them; . . . and they shall not escape."

It is our duty to inquire the cause of this terrible darkness, that we may shun the course by which men have brought upon themselves so great delusion. God has given the world an opportunity to learn and to obey His will. He has given them, in His word, the light of truth; He has sent them warning, counsel, and admonition; **but few will obey His voice** (wise). Like the Jewish nation, the majority, even of professed Christians, (foolish) pride themselves on their superior advantages, but make no returns to God for these great blessings. In infinite mercy **a last warning message** (the midnight/loud cry) has been sent to the world, announcing that Christ is at the door and calling attention to God's broken law. But as the antediluvians rejected with scorn the warning of Noah, so will the pleasure lovers of today reject the message of God's faithful servants." 5T p.99

HAVE YOU OIL IN YOUR VESSELS WITH YOUR LAMPS?

BY MRS. E. G. WHITE.

“THEN shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them; but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.”

Though five of these virgins are represented as wise and five as foolish, all had lamps. They had all been convicted that they must prepare for the coming of the bridegroom, and all had gained a knowledge of the truth. There was no apparent difference between the wise and the foolish until the cry was made, “Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,” but the true state of things was then developed. The wise had taken precautions to carry oil with them in their vessels, so that their lamps that were beginning to burn dimly might be replenished with oil; but the foolish had not provided for this emergency, and now they made an earnest, distressed petition to those who were wise. “And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.” They had neglected to prepare themselves to meet the bridegroom, and now turned to those who had provided themselves with oil. “But the wise answered, say-

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Take close note that there was “NO APPARENT DIFFERENCE” between them “UNTIL” their “true state” was developed and the test given. RH, October 15, 1895 par. 8 shows that it is by “small things that character is developed.”

All have a work to do!

“They resisted the conviction of the Spirit of God. They refused obedience to God's commandments.... In profession they claim to be sons of God, but in life and character they deny the relationship. They do not surrender the will to God. They are living a lie. The promise of obedience they appear to fulfill when this involves no sacrifice; but when self-denial and self-sacrifice are required, when they see the cross to be lifted, they draw back. Thus the conviction of duty wears away, and known transgression of God's commandments becomes habit.” COL p.277, 279

My mind was carried to the future, when the signal will be given. "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." Some... delayed to obtain oil... to late they find character/oil not transferable. RH 2/11/96

The real difference is now seen! (See PH097 p.10) All must agonize to enter in at the straight gate. "Heart-work is necessary!"

The difference is revealed by the "Midnight Cry"

We have a part to do, Christ will **NOT** do everything for us. (See 2SP 364, 365)

2Cor. 13:5
Prove = Test
See strong's G1385

"Appeared" to all outward appearances. "Yet" the test (the Midnight Cry) proved they were not willing to obey, and Come Out of Her. (The church)

ing, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you; but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves."

In reading this parable one cannot but pity the foolish virgins, and ask the question, Why is it that the wise did not divide their supply of oil? But as we make the spiritual application of the parable, we can see the reason. It is not possible for those who have faith and grace to divide their supply with those who have not. It is not possible for those who have made a thorough heart work, to impart the benefit of this to those who have done but surface work. The parable is designed to point out the peril of doing a surface work. Many profess to be Christians; and for a time their half-heartedness is not discerned. The difference between them and those who are truly pious is not made apparent. This parable should awaken solemn reflections. Considering it we should ask ourselves, Are we doers of the words of Christ? Are we building on the rock? Are we, in our probationary time, making our calling and election sure? We should not soothe our consciences in expectation of heaven, when we are not bearing the distinguishing characteristics of the Christian life. Paul says, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"

(All) the ten virgins appeared to be ready for the coming of the bridegroom, and yet the test brought out the fact that five were unready. Those who have true piety esteem and revere the law of God. Through the grace of Christ they exemplify the principles of the law in their lives, and will not willfully break any of the

THE DIFFERENCE		
Foolish	versus	Wise
Professors	versus	Doers
The Midnight Cry Reveals the Difference See page 2 paragraph 2		

"We are not to forget what manner of persons we are, and make no effort to remove the defects from our moral character. We must exercise repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. **We must be doers of the word, and not hearers only.**"

ST, March 3, 1881 par. 4

commandments of God. They realize that “to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” They yield to Christ, who leads men to repentance of sin, who pardons the penitent soul, and clothes him with his own righteousness. The converted soul has a hatred of sin; he does not indulge in self-complacency, self-love, self-sufficiency, nor pass on day after day, claiming to be a Christian, and yet bringing dishonor upon Christ by misrepresenting him in character. Those who make this mistake, and pass on filled with self-righteousness, have not in reality made the first step heavenward. The first step toward heaven is conviction of sin, the second is repentance and obedience. True piety never exalts self.

1Sam 15:22

Deut. 6:25 “And it shall be our **righteousness**, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as He hath commanded us.”

The Foolish are “filled with self-righteousness.”

First & Second step towards heaven

The foolish virgins do not represent those who are hypocritical. They had a regard for truth, they advocated the truth, they were intending to go forth to meet the bridegroom. They are attached to those who believe the truth, and go with them, having lamps, which represent a knowledge of the truth. When there was a revival in the church, their feelings were stirred; but they failed to have oil in their vessels, because they did not bring the principles of godliness into their daily life and character. They did not fall upon the rock Christ Jesus, and permit their old nature to be broken up. This class is represented also by the stony-ground hearers. Christ said: “Behold, a sower went forth to sow; and when he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside; and the fowls came and devoured them up; some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth; and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth.” Jesus explains these stony-ground

Intending to obey (not right now but later) the “Cry, come out,” they believe they must ‘work while IN the church a little longer’
See results of this in 4SP p. 31, 32

**Action required
NOT
good intentions.**

“Satan uses those who claim to believe the truth, but whose light has become darkness, as his **mediums** to utter his falsehoods and transmit his darkness. They are **foolish virgins** indeed, choosing darkness rather than light... The state of the Church represented by the **foolish virgins**, is also spoken of as the **Laodicean state**.... “I know thy **works**.... I will spew thee out of my mouth.” RH, August 19, 1890

John 15:20 "...If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;"

Luke 21:12 "... before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons,

ASSIMILATE: 1828 Webster's
To bring to a likeness; to cause to resemble.

"The moral law contains the gospel in principle."
3SP p.55

Col. 3:17 & 1Cor. 10:31

Practical piety = Good works
i.e. dress, diet, music, obedience to all the commands of God.

"True character is not shaped from without, and put on; it radiates from within. Our profession of faith may proclaim the theory of religion, but it is our practical piety that holds forth the word of truth." DA p.307

hearers, and says, "But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that hear-eth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for awhile; for when (tribulation) or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended."

Many receive the truth readily, but they fail to assimilate truth, and its influence is not abiding. They are like the foolish virgins, who had no oil in their vessels with their lamps. Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, which is brought into the soul through faith in Jesus Christ. Those who earnestly search the Scriptures with much prayer, who rely upon God with firm faith, who obey his commandments, will be among those who are represented as wise virgins. The teachings of the word of God are not yea and nay, but yea and amen. The requirement of the gospel is far-reaching. Says the apostle, "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." Practical piety will not be attained by giving the grand truths of the Bible a place in the outer courts of the heart. The religion of the Bible must be brought into the large and the little affairs of life. It must furnish the powerful motives and principles that will regulate the Christian's character and course of action.

Human nature is depraved, and is justly condemned by a holy God. But provision is made for the repenting sinner, so that by faith in the atonement of the only begotten Son of God, he may receive forgiveness of sin, find

"The name "foolish virgins" represents the character of those who have not the genuine heart-work wrought by the Spirit of God. The coming of Christ does not change the foolish virgins into wise ones." RH, August 19, 1890

"Much unhappiness might be avoided if all would eat, and drink, and dress with an eye single to the glory of God!... We want to be right because it is right. It is the Bible standard that we are to reach. The Lord tells us to come out... and be separate... RH, December 1, 1885

justification, receive adoption into the heavenly family, and become an inheritor of the kingdom of God. Transformation of character is wrought through the operation of the Holy Spirit, which works upon the human agent, implanting in him, according to his desire and consent to have it done, a new nature. The image of God is restored to the soul, and day by day he is strengthened and renewed by grace, and is enabled more and more perfectly to reflect the character of Christ in righteousness and true holiness.

Sanctification

"Perfection of character is a lifelong work, unattainable by those who are not willing to strive for it in God's appointed way, by slow and toilsome steps. We cannot afford to make any mistake in this matter, but we want day by day to be growing up into Christ, our living Head."

5T p. 500

See also: RH, April 28, 1891 par. 4
— the explanation of genuine sanctification.

The oil so much needed by those who are represented as foolish virgins, is not something to be put on the outside. They need to bring the truth into the sanctuary of the soul, that it may cleanse, refine, and sanctify. It is not theory that they need; it is the sacred teachings of the Bible, which are not uncertain, disconnected doctrines, but are living truths, that involve eternal interests that center in Christ. In him is the complete system of divine truth. The salvation of the soul, through faith in Christ, is the ground and pillar of the truth. Those who exercise true faith in Christ make it manifest by holiness of character, by obedience to the law of God. They realize that the truth as it is in Jesus reaches heaven, and compasses eternity. They understand that the Christian's character should represent the character of Christ, and be full of grace and truth. To them is imparted the oil of grace, which sustains a never-failing light. The Holy Spirit in the heart of the believer, makes him complete in Christ. It is not a decided evidence that a man or a woman is a Christian because he manifests deep emotion when under exciting circumstances. He who is Christlike has a deep, determined, persevering

"Why has the Lord so long delayed his coming? The whole host of heaven is waiting to fulfil the last work for this lost world, and yet the work waits. It is because the few who profess to have the oil of grace in their vessels with their lamps, have not become burning and shining lights in the world... You are not sure of a day, therefore see to it that the oil of grace is not emptied out of your vessel. Let no one feel, "My mountain standeth sure. I am an old, experienced Christian.""

RH, March 27, 1894 par. 14

"A large number broke the cords which bound them, and they obeyed the voice, (of the midnight Cry) and left those who were in darkness (in the Church), and united with those who had previously broken the cords, and they joyfully united their voices with them. I heard the voice of earnest, agonizing prayer from a few who still remained with the companies who were in darkness. The ministers and leading men were passing around in these different companies, fastening the cords stronger; but still I heard this voice of earnest prayer. Then I saw those who had been praying reach out their hands for help towards that united company who were free, rejoicing in God. The answer from them, as they earnestly looked to heaven, and pointed upward, was, Come out from among them, and be separate." 1SG p.147

"Never trust in what you yourself can do." RH, November 2, 1886

The midnight cry
(the crisis, the emergency)
reveals character!

Remember the cry that was made is **NOT** made by the sleeping virgins, but to them. As both parties were sleeping.

This cannot be the long looked for Sunday Law by SDA's, as this **Calamity/Test** is unlooked for. The majority will **FAIL** this **TEST** and for them their will NOT be another.

"In this time the gold will be separated from the dross in the church.... Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind.... will appear in the shame of their own nakedness.... **multitudes of false brethren** are distinguished from the true." 5T 81

element in his soul, and yet has a sense of his own weakness, and is not deceived and misled by the Devil, and made to trust in himself. He has a knowledge of the word of God, and knows that he is safe only as he places his hand in the hand of Jesus Christ, and keeps firm hold upon him.

Character is revealed by a crisis. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him," the sleeping virgins roused from their slumbers, and it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares, but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. Character is revealed by circumstances. Emergencies bring out the true metal of character. Some sudden and unlooked-for calamity, bereavement, or crisis, some unexpected sickness or anguish, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will bring out the true inwardness of the character. It will be made manifest whether or not there is any real faith in the promises of the word of God. It will be made manifest whether or not the soul is sustained by grace, whether there is oil in the vessel with the lamp.

>Testing times come to all. How do we conduct ourselves under the test and proving of God? Do our lamps go out? or do we still keep them burning? Are we prepared for every emergency by our connection with Him who is full of grace and truth? The five wise virgins could not impart their character to the five foolish virgins. Character must be formed by us as individuals. It cannot be transferred to another, even if the possessor were willing to make the sacrifice.

This is the TEST

"Some, (foolish) I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hasten to the assistance of all (wise) who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those (foolish; works not need virgins) who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them." EW 270

There is much we can do for each other while mercy still lingers. We can represent the character of Christ. We can give faithful warnings to the erring. We can reprove, rebuke, with all long-suffering and doctrine, bringing the doctrines of Holy Writ home to the heart. We can give heartfelt sympathy. We can pray with and for one another. By living a circumspect life, by maintaining a holy conversation, we may give an example of what a Christian should be ; but no person can give to another his own mold of character. Let us duly consider the fact that we are to be saved, (not) as companies, but as individuals. We shall be judged according to the character we have formed. It is perilous to neglect to prepare the soul for eternity, and to put off making our peace with God until upon a dying bed. It is by the daily transactions of life, by the spirit we manifest, that we determine our eternal destiny. He who is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much. If we have made Christ our pattern, if we have walked and worked as he has given us an example in his own life, we shall be able to meet the solemn surprises that will come upon us in our experience, and say from our heart, "Not my will, but thine, be done."

It is in probationary time, the time in which we are living, that we should calmly contemplate the terms of salvation, and live according to the conditions laid down in the word of God. We should educate and train ourselves, hour by hour and day by day, by careful discipline, to perform every duty. We should become acquainted with God and with Jesus Christ whom he has sent. In every trial it is our privilege to draw upon

"Christian grace and experience is contained in believing on Christ, in knowing God and his Son whom he hath sent. But here is where many fail, for they lack faith in God. Instead of desiring to be brought into fellowship with Christ in his self-denial and humiliation (*Phip 3:10*), they are ever seeking for the supremacy of self. (*foolish virgins*) As long as they (*foolish virgins*) will not fall upon the Rock and be broken, they (*foolish virgins*) cannot appreciate the love of the character of God. We may be one with Christ, but we must be willing to yield our own way and our own will, and have the mind that was in Christ, that we may know what it is to have a fellowship with him in humiliation and suffering." RH, May 24, 1892

"We have a part to act as well as to believe; for we are to be judged according to our works." RH, March 6, 1888 par. 2

Rev 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man (singular) hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him (singular), and will sup with him (singular), and he (singular) with me."

Faith is an action verb
(See Hebrews 11)

No passive mental ascent
found among the wise,
this is ACTION!

Php 3:10 "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"

him who has said, "Let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me." "The Lord says he is more willing to give us the Holy Spirit than parents are to give bread to their children. Then let us have the oil of grace in our vessels with our lamps, that we may not be found among those who are represented as foolish virgins, who were not prepared to go forth to meet the bridegroom."

The preparation we are to make now is NOT our hidey hole in the woods, with our supply of, Beans, Bullets, and Bibles, (*commonly known as preppers*), Our job **NOW**, is to obey the midnight cry message (Matt.25:6) so that we will be able to **prepare our characters** for heaven, to have the Oil of Grace with our lamps. Following **ALL** the commands of our Lord.

"Go ye Out to Meet Him"

Your Choice

WISE.....or.....FOOLISH

EXAMINE YOURSELVES...TEST YOURSELVES
WHETHER YE BE **IN** THE FAITH.

Watch your **THOUGHTS** for they become your **WORDS**,
Choose your **WORDS** for they become your **ACTIONS**,
Understand your **ACTIONS** for they become your **HABITS**,
Study your **HABITS** for they will become your **CHARACTER**,
Develop your **CHARACTER** for it will become your **DESTINY**.
2Cor. 10:5

“The Lord spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people (*the foolish church*), saying, Say ye not. A confederacy (*unity in diversity*), to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid (*‘Church’ the ark of safety*).... In this representation of the prophet, we see that Satan is at work not only with worldlings, who have not the fear and love of God before them, but also with those who profess faith in Christ (*the virgins*). Here are plainly represented two distinct parties, formed from a company that was once united. (*wise and foolish*) The members of one of these parties are in resistance to the will of God. (*foolish virgins*) They have taken themselves from the side of the loyal and true, and are now resisting the warnings of the Spirit of God. To the obedient (*wise virgins*) the Lord will be "for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, (*Conservative or Liberal; Conference or Present truth; etc.*) for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem."” (*this is because the Wise have obeyed the call, “Come Out of Her My People” The Gold was separated from the dross. The Gold removed, and the dross remaining.*) RH, July 18, 1907

**It is only when we stop BELIEVING RIGHT
That we stop DOING RIGHT**

“The testing time is right upon us. We must build upon the Rock that will stand the storm of test and trial. As we see the fulfillment of prophecy, we know that the end of all things is at hand. Present the eternal principles of truth. Show what the Word of God declares is to take place on this earth. The God who gave Daniel instruction regarding the closing scenes of this earth's history will certainly confirm the testimony of His servants as at the appointed time they give the loud cry. All the messages given from 1840-1844 (including the Midnight Cry) are to be made forcible now, for there are many people who have lost their bearings. The messages are to go to all the churches... there should be no delay in repeating the message, for the signs of the times are fulfilling; the closing work must be done. A great work will be done in a short time. ~~A~~ message (the Midnight Cry) will soon be given by God's appointment that will swell into a LOUD CRY.... The attention of our churches (SDA) must be aroused. We are standing upon the borders of the greatest event in the world's history, and Satan must not have power over the people of God, causing them (Laodicea) to sleep on...We are to be sure that our feet are in the narrow path. We need an experience that we have not yet had, that we may have the assurance that the God of all grace is a very present help in time of need...Let us turn our attention away from unimportant things, and give ourselves to God.”
21MR p.437

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Freely ye have received, freely give.

Mat 10:8



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