

A Christmas Story: The Five Foolish Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13: “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. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”

One of the key hallmarks of the holiday season is light. Christmas, Hanukkah and others employ lights of various colors to celebrate this special time of the year. In Christmas, Jesus, coming in the flesh as the Jewish Messiah and Savior of the world, brings this light into the world. He brings a light or revelation of knowledge which had not been seen before. This light illuminates the shepherds tasked with watching their flocks by night. Christ, made manifest illuminates the darkness of our souls when we choose to allow His sacrifice to pay for our sin.

In Hanukkah, the festival of lights celebrates the retaking of the second Temple from those who had desecrated it with pig's blood. The Maccabean revolt stopped what was going to be the attempted annihilation of a very special tribe of people—the Jews. It wasn't the first time the devil had tried to kill them; and unfortunately, it hasn't been the last. The Jewish people have shared their modern technologies

with the world, bringing light and help to countless peoples.¹ Of course, this doesn't even begin to take into account the priceless gift of the Bible. The revelation of the knowledge contained within its pages has brought light to an increasingly darkened world. Why anyone would want to harm Israel is beyond me. Nevertheless, this is what we see today.

To celebrate their hard-fought freedom, the Jews of that time period needed consecrated oil to light their lanterns for seven days. As the story goes, they only had enough oil for one day's worth of light, yet the lantern burned and gave light for eight days. The number eight in the Bible is always a number symbolizing new beginnings. After creating for seven days, Genesis tells us that God rested on the eighth day, beginning a time period for the face of the earth of springtime and harvest, birth, life and fulfillment. This new beginning would continue until sin entered the world, ushering in death.

At that point, light and the hope of illumination would overshadow this darkness of death. Hope, renewal, knowledge in Godly revelation would become necessary signs surrounding life on the planet. Without God giving revelation throughout our world, we would not have the wheel, electricity, heat, transportation, from horse and buggy to combustion engine, and beyond. Revelation through Godly light would bring us all of this. Is it any wonder that we choose light to show us the way during this time of year?

Is it that we choose light or does the Light choose us? I believe it's both, not either or. Genesis is called the book of beginnings. After we read, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," His first recorded words are: "Let there be light!" Ultimately, it is God who gave us light. Yet, we still must choose to follow that light and reflect it to a lost and dying world.

¹ "Made In Israel" can be seen at this © site <<http://www.cbn.com/special/made-in-israel>> It records some of the technological breakthroughs from the nation of Israel and how she has shared them with the world.

This brings us back to our wise and foolish virgins. It's the story of a great wedding feast, or a new beginning for those who love new beginnings. Jesus uses the wedding story to symbolize His Second Coming. To begin these days of festivities, the bridegroom would have to be met and accompanied back to the place of celebration. That it was dark out should not surprise us, that light was needed to get them to the place of feasting should not be ignored. Half of these virgins forgot that overriding principle.

The New Testament records Jesus' words clearly. The wise virgins took an additional, but necessary step to ensure their success: an extra supply of oil. We've had many naval and other military members come and go in our ministry. They've all had an ability to plan for contingencies. The older ones would term it as Plan A, Plan B and the backup for Plan B; while the younger ones would call it a bug-out plan. All these terms cover basically the same thought: Make sure you have what you need when you need it.

It seems the wise virgins understood this, while the foolish ones forgot the lesson. This lesson is played out in our world across all facets of our lives: political, individual, national, spiritual, you name it. Politically, there is an attempt on a global level to swallow the earth in a socialistic-communistic-progressive wave. What these "unwise" players in that scenario forget is that mankind was created with a built-in element of freedom and liberty. The natural science behind these ideologies prove that their brand of living is death for the majority of those trapped in its nightmare. While those on the "freedom-for-all" side have the ability to bring in the light and revelation of God for discoveries to all sorts of endeavors for people all over the globe. Socialism and its offshoots never do that; in fact, the science proves it cannot do that.

On the individual side, we all understand that squandering our lives in sex, drugs and alcohol will limit our lives. We begin to understand at an early age that our own rebellious actions cause us, and those around us, harm. Those acts against the light of God limit our ability to thrive. Never is this so apparent as when several facets of human living

combine— individual, political, national— to create the havoc and chaos of mass migration. The word of God tells us to go into all the world and preach the gospel, teaching or discipling mankind concerning the things of God.

When politicians use their socialistic-globalist agendas to create crises in order to force mass migration, thereby causing upheavals in individual lives; and when these same types of pols create havoc within their own countries in order to remain in power, thus making life a living hell in them, this brings darkness. Those actions do not bring the light of God. Preaching the gospel message can bring light, hope, peace and prosperity to those people groups.

One of the best ways to show this on a mathematical level is through the simple exercise of counting gum balls.² If you view the YouTube clip in the footnote, you will see that it is mathematically impossible to help the impoverished of the world by moving them into America or Europe, or anywhere else. Even if you only move in a small amount, let's say by the hundreds or thousands, you will never help the countries they come from and you will weaken the countries you send them to. The best way to help them, is by helping them where they live. This is what Jesus told us to do in Matthew and Mark (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15). These actions bring spiritual light to a lost and dying world.

In order to be able to bring spiritual light, we must have enough inside of us to bring the Godly light of revelation. The oil is the fuel for the light. In our story from what became the first Hanukkah celebration, the oil had to be consecrated or pure oil. Throughout the whole New Testament, we are told that without the infilling of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible to function as a Christian. Like any new babe, we need to be filled with healthy food in order to grow and mature. The Bible is our food source, the Holy Spirit, our guide or parent, if you will; leading and guiding us into all truth. Without both the word of God and the Spirit of God, we will never be able to bring the light of God into a lost and dying world.

² < <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIVMW7g5QBI> >

Christians and Jews have been known, the world over, for bringing help and hope during some of the worst catastrophes on our planet. Many things make this possible, but the most important is an adherence to the Bible and the God who breathed its writings into the spirits of mortal flesh who put quill to tablet or paper. It's this revelation that inspires and desires to help the hopeless out of the worst predicaments darkness holds them in. This is why socialists, progressives and communists fight against these religions.

Our world, America, Europe and other places which love freedom are being groomed to speak the socialist narrative. We are being groomed to hate each other. We are being groomed to hate speaking truth to the narrative of how healthy families are raised and how it affects the health of nations. Social media giants and the European Union are calling speech they don't like as hateful, while ignoring the persecution of Christians and Jews in their own midst.³ They are playing the devil's game of bait and switch by calling good, evil and evil, good. They are attempting to confuse through any means necessary in order to stay in power. The fact that people fall for it, even Christians and Jews, shows us what Jesus was saying when He shared this parable about wise and foolish virgins.

³ < <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/10544/criminalize-free-speech> > < <https://new.euro-med.dk/20160208-eu-parliament-christians-not-safe-in-our-continent-and-jesuit-adam-weishaupt-his-masons-and-their-master-laugh-in-hell.php> > < <https://new.euro-med.dk/20180113-europes-future-horrible-persecution-of-christians-in-euromediterranean-partner-egypt.php> > < <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/> > < https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2018/05/22/top-senate-democrats-introduce-bill-to-amend-religious-freedom-restoration-act/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.43e17db89da0 > < <https://pjmedia.com/faith/ex-muslim-christian-pastor-refugee-from-iran-arrested-for-sharing-his-testimony-in-minnesota/> > < <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCede7mCM8M> > < <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1023483/You-preach-Bible-Muslim-area-What-police-told-Christian-preachers.html> > < <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBaTVwIjH-E> > < <http://nrb.org/news-room/articles/nrbt/ads-greg-lauries-harvest-outreach-removed-mall-over-bible-image/> > < <https://www.oregister.com/2018/08/08/irvine-co-removes-socal-harvest-ad-from-fashion-island-mall-after-alleged-threat/> > < <http://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2018/august/billboards-advertising-christian-event-and-featuring-a-bible-removed-amid-complaints> >

When our lamps are full of oil, and we maintain our connection to the Holy Spirit, it is very hard to fool a people to give up the light of life. This reality is at the heart of wise and foolish. It is what Jesus was warning us about. By sharing the Light around the world, where we live and where other people live, we share Jesus to a lost and dying world. We can only do that when our lamps are full of the Holy Spirit, and we know how to access what we need as we travel on our individual journeys, which eventually leads to ‘meeting the bridegroom.’

This holiday season, as you light up your homes, businesses, churches and other places of worship, remember the wise and the foolish virgins. Remember that whatever lights you are using to celebrate this season, are symbolic of having the Light of the world (Jesus) reside inside, restoring and refilling what it is you need as you travel along this path in life. His desire to give mankind this light was a choice made long ago. Receiving it is easy. This is what the Bible says:

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed” (Romans 10:9-11).

I am not the source of oil or light; all I can do is lead you to the one where you can receive oil. This oil will fuel the light you share. When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior and ask Him to forgive your sins, you ask Him to come into your heart. The simple prayer above is enough. The Bible is the word of God. The word of God is Jesus. John 1:1-17:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a

witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

The Scripture above says that Jesus is the word of God. When you and I read our Bibles and allow the Holy Spirit to minister His word to us, our oil supplies are restocked. When we worship Him through various acts of prayer, meditating on Him and His word; or, we share Jesus in word and song and acts of giving to those in need, our joy— our “oil” — is refilled and restocked. Because of Jesus, there’s no need to go without the Holy Spirit supplying what we need each and every day. This is the best gift God gives us. May you and your family have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.