

We Do Not Know November 29, 2017

Matthew 25:1-13 - "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins, who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish [thoughtless, silly, and careless], and five were wise [far-sighted, practical, and sensible]. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take any [extra] oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil along with their lamps. 5 Now while the bridegroom was delayed, they all began to nod off, and they fell asleep. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! The bridegroom [is coming]! Go out to meet *him*.' 7 Then all those virgins got up and put their own lamps in order [trimmed the wicks and added oil and lit them]. 8 But the foolish *virgins* said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No, otherwise there will not be enough for us and for you, too; go instead to the dealers and buy *oil* for yourselves.' 10 But while they were going away to buy *oil*, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut *and* locked. 11 Later the others also came, and said, 'Lord, Lord, open [the door] for us.' 12 But He replied, 'I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, I do not know you [we have no relationship]'. 13 Therefore, be on the alert [be prepared and ready], for you do not know the day nor the hour [when the Son of Man will come]. [AMP]

There are a few things from this passage that I did not see before until recently. It has me thinking in a different way. The first thing I never truly took note of before was the fact that ALL 10 of these fell asleep; not just the ones without oil for their lamps. Even those that were prepared fell asleep. The second is that the wise ones had EXTRA oil. Their lamps already had oil but they brought extra to keep their lamps burning in the waiting period. The others only had just enough which is why they had to go out to get more. The wise told the others where to go to get more but the hour of the bridegroom came before the others returned. The last thing I recently noticed is not what the bridegroom says but the timing of what he says. When the others went out to purchase MORE oil and they came back, they pleaded to be let into the bridegroom's chamber. Although they went out and did as the wise suggested, it was too late. This is why Jesus says for us to be ready and prepared.

Now, here is a thought. It is easy to say, "Oh foolish ones! Why were you not prepared?" It is easy to say, "If only you had read your Bible more. You would have been prepared." It is easy to say, "You have the Word but you don't have a true relationship with the Lord." For myself and all our readers, I pray we begin to look at things differently. This story, in my personal opinion as of now, is teaching us more than to just be prepared for ourselves. It also teaches us to pray that others are prepared. That may be a leap but this is where I currently am in my walk. We can only give out of our abundance or else we will also be lacking and then it will be like the blind leading the blind. As we continue to grow in the Lord, shouldn't we be praying that others do the same?

As we move into this season over the next month, let us not think on how and why others are or have not...but let us pray and declare that others are and have.

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