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## The Parables of Jesus Christ: Virgins, Vessels, and Vigilance

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# THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

## PARABLE FORTY-FIVE: Virgins, Vessels, and Vigilance (Mt. 25:1-13)

### SURVEY

Ten virgins took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five were foolish because they carried no oil with them while five were wise because they did. Upon learning of the bridegroom's impending arrival, the ten virgins reacted as follows:

1. The five foolish ones hurried out to buy more oil, but upon their return found the door of the banquet hall shut.
2. The five wise ones quickly trimmed their lamps and entered into the joy of the wedding celebration.

### SIGNIFICANCE

This parable is unique in that it seems to suggest the unsaved will unsuccessfully attempt to seek the aid of the saved at the second coming of Christ, as seen by their request:

*"And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out."* (Mt. 25:8)

### SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The following interpretation is suggested for this parable:

1. The chronology of the parable

When does the action in the parable take place? It occurs during the coming great tribulation, perhaps at the very end.

2. The characters in the parable

- a. The bridegroom is Christ.
- b. The bride is the Church.
- c. The ten virgins represent Israel, awaiting the coming of their Messiah.
  - (1) The five foolish ones had not experienced the new birth.
  - (2) The five wise ones had experienced the new birth.

- As has been noted, the wise virgins possessed oil. Oil is a recognized symbol for the Holy Spirit. Oil indicates light, healing and anointing for service as the following passages testify to:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised" (Lk. 4:18).*

*"But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:35).*

- The Holy Spirit will thus play an important role in the coming Great Tribulation. He is spoken of on at least three occasions:

*"And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them . . . And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours, and their works do follow them . . . So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns." (Rev. 11:11; 14:13; 17:3)*

- It will be no doubt the Holy Spirit who will seal and anoint for service the 144,000 Jewish evangelists in Rev. 7:

*"And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel." (Rev. 7:2-4)*