

Recap: Why Parables?

Matt. 13:10-15

Matthew 13:10-17

New Living Translation

¹⁰ His disciples came and asked him, “Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?” ¹¹ He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets^[a] of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. ¹² To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. ¹³ That is why I use these parables, for they look, but they don’t really see.

They hear, but they don’t really listen or understand. ¹⁴ This fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah that says, ‘When you hear what I say, you will not understand. When you see what I do, you will not comprehend.

¹⁵ For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes— so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.’^[b] ¹⁶ “But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. ¹⁷ I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but they didn’t see it. And they longed to hear what you hear, but they didn’t hear it.

Quite often it is the self-righteous, entitled mindset of the religious elite that needs to be stripped away so you can understand the true gospel of the Kingdom.

Parable of the Ten Virgin Bridesmaids

25 “Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids^[a] who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.³ The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, ⁴ but the other five were wise enough to take along extra

oil. ⁵ **When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.** ⁶ “At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!’ ⁷ “All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. ⁸ Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ **“But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’** ¹⁰ “But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. ¹¹ Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’ ¹² “But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you!’ ¹³ “So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.

TITLE: Have you checked your oil lately?

In describing a first-century Jewish wedding, D.A. Carson in the *Expositor’s Bible Commentary* describes the setting this way:

“Normally the bridegroom with some close friends left his home to go to the bride’s home, where there were various ceremonies, followed by a procession through the streets – after nightfall – to his home. The ten virgins may be bridesmaids who have been assisting the bride; and they expect to meet the groom as he comes from the bride’s house...

Everyone in the procession was expected to carry his or her own torch. Those without a torch would be assumed to be party crashers. The festivities, which might last several days, would formally get under way at the groom’s house.”

The torch was either a lamp with a small oil tank and wick or a stick with a rag soaked in oil on the end of it which would require occasional re-soaking to maintain the flame.

In a sense, [Matthew 24:50-51](#) raises the following question: “On what basis will Israel be judged?” The answer in [Matthew 25:1-13](#) is preparedness. The parable of the ten virgins provides a picture of Israel brought back to the land at the end of days for a judgment to see who is prepared and who is unprepared the second time for the coming of Messiah. The focus is on Israel in the last days.

The ten virgins represent the nation of Israel as a whole. The nation is divided into two groups of five each. One group, the wise, is depicted as prepared and waiting since they have obtained extra oil in case a delay occurs in the coming of the bridegroom. This first group represents believing and prepared Israel. The second group, the foolish, did not prepare and they represent unbelieving Israel. They were not ready for the coming of Messiah.

This text in its context talks about **Eschatology**. The end of all things and the preparation required by the bride (church) to be ready for such an event. It is a picture of a groom waiting for his bride, it is the bride (church) getting ready for the groom (Jesus)

Acts 1:11

“...This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Revelation 19:7

“...the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”

This theme of Jesus coming back like bridegroom for bride is also the imagery of the parable, contextualized by their wedding process not ours.

The LEFT OUT vs. LEFT BEHIND: perspectives have a history that is often read into the Bible, not taken from it!

(See Margaret MacDonald in the 1800’s had a dream and a vision. Where most of our modern concepts of end time teaching came from. John Nelson Darby, and Cyrus Scofield – champions of dispensationalism took these

ideas from the dream and developed some of the teachings that we hold true to now) who looked at the 10 virgins parable and said here is biblical proof of the dream. Where in reality the rapture concept is no more than 200 years old.

Fear tactics to right living is wrongly applied. If I don't submit I will burn for eternity. That interpretation cheapens the grace of Jesus.

Even though Matt. 24 "wrongly" applied, Jesus is still coming for his people.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words."

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

FACT CHECK-JESUS WILL COME BACK IN PHYSICAL FORM

FACT CHECK-THE dead in Christ will rise and meet him in the air!

FACT CHECK-Is Jesus going back to heaven? NO! He and us will come back to the earth to rule and reign.

The entire earth and all that is within it and on it will be restored once and for all.

The word rapture doesn't exist in the bible! The concept does.

Caught up: ἀρπάζω / harpazó: to seize, catch up, snatch away.

Eschatology matters, and it needs to be Christological, new Covenant based. It matters because it is founded on how and who you believe God is.

Your eschatology and view of the return of Jesus must look like the Jesus who already defeated the devil and sin because he is the same forever!

When Jesus comes again, He will not be a ticked off vengeful God seeking to destroy everyone and redo what he already accomplished on the cross.

Hebrews 9:28 “So also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.”

He defeated the devil, sin, sickness, died on the cross, rose up again and raised us up in newness of life. All of this was done from the cross and through the resurrection.

So when he comes again, he is not coming to add to what he already did!! There is not a 3rd covenant!
Believe what you want, but be grounded in what Jesus did for you already and you don't have to live in fear!

Matt. 24:1-3

“Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. 2 “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down.” 3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

Everything was wrapped around, THE TEMPLE! This was the icon of the Jewish faith and for them if this was destroyed would be the end of their world as they knew it!

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him and asked,

1. When will this temple be destroyed?
2. What will be the sign?
3. When are you coming?

Jesus starts talking in Mathew 24:4-35 about all the signs of things that will happen: Deception, wars and rumours of wars, earthquakes, famines, persecution, betrayal, destruction, the abomination of desolation, sun, moon and stars falling from sky etc... all of this was not in reference to his coming, but to the first part of the question, “when will these things happen, when will the stones be turned upside down?”

These were all signs that led up to the destruction of temple!

All these things will happen, and this generation will not pass away

Matthew 24 was in AD30 and in AD 70 all of it came to pass.

History tells us that not 1 single Christian died in AD70 because they all listened to what Jesus said.

Matthew 24:37-39 Jesus answers the 2nd question

1 Thes 5:2-6 Paul said this day would come like a thief in the night

Parables are stories that we can relate to, to explain things we cannot relate too. Throughout the scriptures you will hear terms such as “The Kingdom of Heaven is like...” These phrases are parabolic or metaphoric to help you understand “what it is like”

He taught this way to describe his Kingdom. KINGDOM is the KINGS DOMAIN. He tried to describe heavenly concepts and spiritual truths to an earthly brain!

TRAIN YOUR BRAIN TO REIGN.

Speaking of Train, Isaiah 6:1 “It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple.”

In bible days, the longer the kings train (robe) was, the bigger his kingdom. Gods kingdom is so vast that his robe filled the temple. His Kingdom is bigger than your community! It is bigger than your consciousness.

We can't comprehend the capacity of his Kingdom. Our minds can't begin to calibrate regardless of how clever we may think we are.

His Kingdom is bigger than the largest church in the world. Bigger than your thoughts, opinions and your theology and any nation.

Jesus is the master teacher!! Amazing, incredible, authentic, profound, prolific, powerful, life changing life altering. He must have been amazing if people cut the roof out to get to him! He must have been authoritative if the waves obeyed and laid prostrate on the ocean in obedience.

Luke has 24 parables- Matthew has 23 Mark has 8
Communication is only complete with understanding. Jesus spoke in a way that the people of the day could understand. It was only the religious rabbis that tried to impress with knowledge.

Jesus is teaching us to prepare for moments that have not come yet. He is teaching us to not be surprised and caught off guard.

You can't wait for the moment to be ready
You can't wait for the rehearsal for the wedding
You can't go in for an interview before you write your resume.
You have to build an ark before it rains.

God doesn't want you just ready for now; he wants you to be ready for next.

God is watching how you manage moments!!

2 Corinthians 5:5 "God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit"

2 Corinthians 5:19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

If you have the Spirit of God, you are prepared and ready.
Last week I showed you how God watched how we manage mankind.

Next week I might talk about the parable of the talents. That is where God watches how you manage money.

It is not enough to have the dress, the looks, the smell or the money. Without the oil you have nothing.

Don't ever fall asleep with no oil. Don't be caught dead with no oil. Time is not on your side. Don't make the mistake of getting serious too late. Don't get to your last 5 minutes and start regretting. Your last 5 minutes should sound like, "I have fought the good fight, lived and breathed by faith in Jesus. I lived life to the fullest and I'm ready to transition. No regrets, no remorse no retreat. My obedience positioned me for such a time as this."

Friend of mine had a hearse that said on the side of it, "Don't be caught dead without Jesus."

All ten virgins fell asleep waiting for the bridegroom.

I came to ring your bell and wake you and this city up. Too many churches are walking in their sleep! This day of over catering is over! You will sit for 2 hours watching a movie, 4-5 hours watching a baseball game, at least 4 hours watching Nascar and God knows how long at the beach, but if the preacher goes over 10 minutes the church is looking for the exit!

Every day is a gift from God. Every breath is a gift from God. Every minute with him is one less minute with you and the devil!

People who are in preparation don't have time to complain because there is an expectation.

"Potential without preparation leads to frustration." TDJakes

Quit living below the level of mediocrity. Rise above your greatest fears and stop settling for average. **Quit serving Jesus out of fear of hell rather serve him based on his love for you and his hand of grace, his unending never changing love for you. What has been the highlight of yesterday and last week?**

Where are the extra oil people this morning?

If you have extra oil you will never underestimate your future.

If you have extra oil, you are running on overdrive; you have taken your life to a new level.

If you have extra oil you are beating the doors down of the church when we are closed. You can't get enough!

You got some "JUST IN CASE" oil; You are ready for whatever, whenever, however!

Having a lantern with no oil means you are not ready for him. It means you are ready on your timetable not his.

We have to be ready when he is ready. I think he has been ready for a long time now. Matter of fact -he is always ready

"It is foolish to underestimate the power of an opportunity." TDJ

YOU ARE GOING TO NEED EXTRA OIL!!!!

When Covid hit and people left, Sheryl and I came with extra oil!

People say, "How do you do it" We don't rely on last weeks, last month or last years oil! We fill our oil tanks every day!

Just In case, I bring an extra can to fill so I can pour it out on someone else!

Do you have enough oil that people will need to ask you for some?

What happens when you have more than enough and you attract people who don't?

What does the Bible say? IT SAYS NO!

Listen! For every wise virgin there was a fool!! IF they wasted their oil they will waste your oil too! These fools are looking for a short cut.

YOU ARE NOT SOMEONE ELSE'S PROVISION

Foolish people think that wise people are their provision. It is a spirit of entitlement! It is a welfare mentality. There will always be someone ready to burn up or syphon your oil!

Some people need to say No! Get your own oil. Your own anointing, your own impartation, pay your own price! Put the time in on your knees, you get up early!

Every wise person has a fool close by. Here is counselling 101. If you don't listen to class 1 or 2 you will not get class 3,4, 5

Hard Lesson: You Don't follow up with fools-You follow up with the faithful.

New International Version Prov 20:27

The human spirit is the lamp of the LORD that sheds light on one's inmost being.

Bill Johnson, "When we reduce the joy of knowing God to the principles that bring breakthrough, we cheapen the journey. Those who desire principles above presence seek a kingdom without a king.

Romans 8:9 ⁹ But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)

The oil represents the Spirit.

EPHESIANS 1: ¹³ And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own^[a] by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. ¹⁴ The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

Forget about the Mark of the Beast! What about the Mark of God? Are you branded by the Holy Spirit?

Rev 7:3 Talks about the Mark of God on your forehead! Some of us are looking for the wrong mark!

That mark is an inward identity!

The sin that condemns us is our rejection of Jesus. People have not embraced the remedy for their sin.

Acts 2:16-17

New International Version

¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.”

The church has internalized this but there is a remnant of the Spirit on everyone.

I think your conscience is really Holy Spirit.

Proverbs 20:27 The spirit of a man is a lamp unto the Lord.

NLT “The Lord’s light penetrates the human spirit, exposing every hidden motive.”

Don’t get so caught up trying to buy oil that you miss the door. Don’t try to get your oil from someone else when all you have to do is receive the Spirit (oil) by faith.