

Matthew 25:1-13 Keep Watch & Stay Ready

While leaving the Temple, Yeshua's disciples pointed out the beauty and elegance of the Temple. In His response to them, Yeshua said, "...See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down"

When they arrived at the Mount of Olives, while sitting alone with Yeshua, His disciples asked Him three questions in response to the teachings He had taught while in Jerusalem and pertaining to what He had said concerning the Temple and its destruction.

The disciples asked Yeshua, "Tell us, when shall these things be? What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Yeshua did not answer their questions directly or give dates or timelines. Instead, Yeshua began by warning them of being deceived by men that would deceive many and gave them signs to look for.

In this parabolic teaching about virgins, Yeshua pressed upon His disciples the importance of watching and staying prepared so that when He returned to redeem His people, we would all be watching for Him, prepared, and ready for His return.

Mt 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

Exegesis vs Eisegesis

Eisegesis : the interpretation of a text (as of the Bible) by reading into it one's own ideas.

Exegesis: is an approach to interpreting Bible passages utilizing critical analysis. The word itself comes from a Greek word which means 'to lead out of.' It is the thorough investigation of Biblical text, within their various contexts, to discover the original intent of a word.

With those understandings in mind, ask yourself this question: Are the virgins in this passage females or males?

Second: What evidence from this passage do you have to support your conclusion that the virgins in this passage are females or males?

Typically, when we hear the term virgin, we think female. Why?

Mt 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

Likened – **3666 ὁμοίω** homoioo {hom-oy-o'-o}

Meaning: 1) to be made like 2) to liken, compare 2a) illustrate by comparisons

Usage: AV - liken 9, make like 2, be like 2, in the likeness of 1, resemble 1; 15

Virgins – **3933 παρθένος** parthenos {par-then'-os} **Meaning:** 1) a virgin 1a) a marriageable maiden 1b) a woman who has never had sexual intercourse with a man 1c) one's marriageable daughter 2) a man who has abstained from all uncleanness and whoredom attendant on idolatry, and so has kept his chastity 2a) one who has never had intercourse with women

Usage: AV - virgin 14; 14

Lamps – **2985 λαμπάς** lampas {lam-pas'}

Meaning: 1) a torch 2) a lamp, the flame of which is fed with oil

Usage: AV - lamp 7, torch 1, light 1; 9

Bridegroom – **3566 νυμφίος** numphios {noom-fee'-os}

Meaning: 1) a bridegroom

Usage: AV - bridegroom 16; 16

When Yeshua spoke a parable, He gave the meaning of it. The person speaking the parable has the meaning of the parable. We should look to the one who spoke the parable for the meaning of it. Otherwise, we can give the parable a meaning not intended by the speaker.

It is not our responsibility to try and figure out the meaning of a parable that Yeshua spoke. Why should we if He gives the meaning and understanding of the parable?

The meaning of this parable is given in Verse 13. The parable is about watching and staying prepared for the return of our bridegroom, Yeshua.

Mt 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Yeshua is preparing His disciples for His return long before His crucifixion and ascension.

Each time the bridegroom is mentioned in the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke, it alludes to Yeshua. The First Mentioned Principle applied to the word bridegroom in Matthew will take us to Matthew 9:15.

Mt 9:14 Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?

Mt 9:15 And Yeshua said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

Mt 25:2 And five of them were **wise**, and five *were* foolish.

Wise – **5429 φρόνιμος** phronimos {fron'-ee-mos}

Meaning: 1) intelligent, wise 2) prudent, i.e. mindful of one's interests

Usage: AV - wise 14; 14

Foolish – **3474 μωρός** moros {mo-ros'}

Meaning: 1) foolish 2) impious, godless

Usage: AV - foolish 7, fool 5, foolishness 1; 13

Mt 25:3 They that *were* foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

Mt 25:4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Vessels – **30 ἀγγεῖον** aggeion {ang-eye'-on}

Meaning: 1) a vessel, receptacle, a pail, a reservoir

Origin: from aggos (a pail, perhaps as bent, cf base of 43);; n

Usage: AV - vessel 2; 2

The wise not only took oil in their lamps but took vessels with oil in them.

Mt 25:5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

Mt 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

We are not informed who made the cry at midnight.

Mt 25:7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

Trimmed – **2885 κοσμέω** kosmeo {kos-meh'-o}

Meaning: 1) to put in order, arrange, make ready, prepare 2) to ornament, adore 3) metaph. to embellish with honour, gain honour

Usage: AV - adorn 5, garnish 4, trim 1; 10

The Things the Virgins Had in Common:

- They were all virgins.
- They all went out to meet the bridegroom.
- They all had lamps/torches with oil in them; according to verse 8, their lamps had gone out.
- They all fell asleep.
- They all heard the cry.

Their Differences:

- Five were wise.
- Five were foolish.
- The five wise took extra oil.
- The five foolish did not take extra oil.

Question: Why did they have lamps in the first place?

- This lets us know that the sun had set, and they would need light to see their way.
- Five expected an immediate coming and did not anticipate a delay.
- Five anticipated a delay and did not know but were prepared if the bridegroom came right away or if the bridegroom delayed his coming.

I was reading the other day about a mother and son in India that were charged with beheading his sister, her daughter, for marrying a man without the knowledge of her family. They beheaded her in her own house while her husband slept in the other room. This is known as an honor killing. After they beheaded her, they turned themselves in to the police.

Being a virgin doesn't make you wise. What makes you wise is adhering to the wisdom of God's Word!

There are virgins today that believe they can do sexual things as long as they are not penetrated vaginally or who do not penetrate vaginally. There are virgins who believe they can masturbate and maintain their virginity.

To be fingered is to be penetrated minus the seminal discharge. There are virgins who believe they can engage in oral sex and maintain their virginity. Kissing in the mouth, exchanging saliva and touching sexual body parts is fornication.

Pregnancy is proof of fornication, but as you can see, there are a lot more sexual acts that do not result in pregnancy that an ungodly virgin can engage in without being exposed publicly and still believe that they can maintain their virginity.

Being a virgin with no child does not make you a wise female or male.

There are virgins out there today who think maintaining their virginity is simply not having sexual penis penetration, but will give hand jobs, head jobs, show themselves in the nude, take nude pictures and send them to their boyfriend or girlfriend, kiss, etc. They don't consider those things as having sex and convince themselves, or allow others to convince them, that as long as they do not have penis penetration, they maintain their virginity. That is far from the truth.

Sex is a mindset. You can have sex without penetration in your thoughts and even in your dreams which is why you must keep your thoughts pure and not allow images into your mind and heart. Is it any wonder that an idol is also classified as an image? The image can be physical or imagined, but the effect is the same. You can bow down to an image in your mind, although there is no physical image present, and commit idolatry.

People who are given to pornography know that they don't need an actual picture or physical image for they may have many stored images in their head/mind that they can conjure up in a moment's notice.

We must purify our hearts and keep our hearts pure and our hands clean.

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

Mt 25:9 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.

It is every person for themselves when it comes to waiting on the Son of Man, our Bridegroom.

Save yourselves and don't compromise your walk for someone else who is not willing to do what is necessary to prepare themselves and stay ready.

Had they been wise virgins, they would have been prepared, but they were not wise, they were foolish.

Mt 25:10 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.

Mt 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

Because they were foolish, they were not ready. They started off with oil, but ran out of oil, nor did they have vessels to carry extra oil.

Mt 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Why did not the Lord open the door and let them in? Because they were ungodly, therefore unrecognizable to Him. If we take the teachings of Yeshua in their entirety, we will have a fuller understanding of the whole and remember what He had said earlier: that many will come in that day saying Lord, Lord...

Mt 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Mt 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Mt 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Mt 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Mt 7:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Mt 7:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

Mt 7:27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Mt 25:13 **Watch therefore**, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Watch – 1127 γρηγορεύω (γρηγορέω) gregoreuo {gray-gor-yoo'-o}

Meaning: 1) to watch 2) metaph. give strict attention to, be cautious, active 2a) to take heed lest through remission and indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one

Usage: AV - watch 21, wake 1, be vigilant 1; 23

I will leave you with Yeshua's words as recorded in Luke 12:

Lk 12:35 Let your loins be girded about, and *your* lights burning;

Lk 12:36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

Lk 12:37 Blessed *are* those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Lk 12:38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants.

Lk 12:39 And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.

Lk 12:40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.