



All Citizens Christian Church Calgary

Bible Study: Thursday October 24th, 2013. **Topic:** THE PARABLES OF JESUS Part IV (The Foolish Virgins)

TEXT: Matthew 25: 1-13

INTRODUCTION: The return of Jesus Christ to the earth to take His saints to heaven dominates the entire Bible II Peter 3: 10-14, Acts 1: 11. That this doctrine has been taught for years and it has not happened has made some people to view it as a myth. Jesus knew that this will be so hence He told this parable to the people so that we will not be discouraged when we notice a delay in His return. It was also to make us prepared. These days we hear people say that the talk about Jesus' return has been on for a long time and so it should be forgotten. I liken that to a man who has gone on a business trip and his wife has been told to forget him since he is delaying in his return. Are you going to forget Him? May God help us as we look deeply into this parable again this evening in Jesus Name.

DISCUSSION:

These people were all virgins. What does this mean?

Some Christians are wise

- a. They diligently prepare themselves for the Master's coming, heeding the call to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord - II Peter 3:18; 1:5-8
- b. Knowing what is to come; they "look" for it and live wisely – Eph 5: 16
- c. For them, the coming of the Lord will be a blessing

It was the virgins' responsibility to ensure the light is burning.

Matthew 5: 14, 16, Phil 2: 15, Prov 4: 18. The light is what the people can see but how to ensure that the light is burning no one sees that.

Some are foolish

- a. They know the Lord is coming, but they do a shoddy preparation, they are careless, sinning but still in the church, heady and refusing to head the word of God. II Tim 3: 1-5, 4: 3-4. They are brilliant in their defence. Are we like the wise virgins, or the foolish ones?

To keep the light burning, they needed the oil (hidden in the lamp). That is the invisible part. This is where men cheat. Here we may use all sorts of things to keep the light glowing some might even just be burning the wick without the oil. That will not last for too long. Isaiah 10 27, I: John 2: 27. It is the lack of anointing that generates unabated struggle. Some will cheat so people will think their light is burning bright. No one could determine the quantity of their oil. They THOUGHT everyone had sufficient oil. Perhaps the 'foolish five' thought so too.

Do not trust in Previous Accomplishments

- 1. Note that the foolish virgins did have "some" oil - Matt 25:8
 - 2. So they had made some preparation, but foolishly trusted in what they had done in the past
 - 3. Neither should we "rest on our laurels", but have the attitude of Paul – Phil. 3:12-15
- Are you foolishly depending on your past glories?

Preparedness is not transferable

1. The wise virgins could not share their oil with the foolish virgins – Matt. 25:9 so we cannot impart what salvation we have received to someone (they must receive it from the Lord Himself) – Psalm 49:7; Prov 9:12, Rom 14: 12.

We cannot be "saved by association"

a. It did not work for the Jews - cf. Jer 7:4-7

b. Neither will it work for us; each of us must work to have our own name in the Book of Life - Rev 20:13

Do you foolishly trust in your relationship with someone else for your salvation (a parent, a spouse, a church, etc.)?

D. The Foolish virgins did not have a second chance.

1. Despite their pleas, the foolish virgins were not permitted to the wedding - Matt 25:10-12

2. When the Lord comes again, the time for salvation is gone! II Cor 6: 2

The Bridegroom delayed. Matthew 24: 36, I Thess. 5:1-6, Mark 13: 35, II Peter 3: 10-12. No one can tell when this day is going to be nor why the Bridegroom delayed. However, while the bridegroom delayed, the virgins all slept off. It appears they were the same while they were all sleeping but the wise ones were prepared.

When the bridegroom returned, the lamps were still there but they were not useful. A Christian without the Holy Spirit is not useful for anything. The flesh which we pay so much attention to will become useless when spiritual business arises.

How to maintain a state of preparedness.

1. Be careful not to let this world to pre-occupy you - Lk 21:34-35 a. Through its worldly lusts and b. through its worldly concerns

2. Be steadfast in prayer - Lk 21:36; a. For in prayer we naturally maintain an attitude of watchfulness (which is a mark of preparation). Eph 6:18.

b. For in prayer we can assure that we will be counted worthy as we confess our sins - 1 John: 1:9

3. Be diligent to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. - II Pet 3:18,

a. As defined in II Pet 1:5-8 , b. The blessings of which are described in II Pet 1:10-11

CONCLUSION

1. This parable teaches that a great day is coming, a day in which the Christians not the non Christians will find themselves in two different groups...

a. Those who prepared themselves and faithfully watched for His coming

b. Those who were not prepared, to whom they will hear the Lord say: "Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you."

Dearly Beloved, if the Lord were to come today, will He find you watching and would He find you prepared? Will He even know you? Matt 7:21-23

"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." (Matt 25:13)