

THE TRUE GOSPEL

100 SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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39.

IMPORTANCE OF PREPARING FOR THE KINGDOM

Mat 25:1 Then shall the **KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

Mat 25:2 And five of them were wise, and five [were] foolish.

Mat 25:3 They that [were] foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

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

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

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

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

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

Mat 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.

Mat 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.

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

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

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

Note: Lev 21:10-15 says that the high priest must take only a virgin of his own people to wife.

* Lev 21:13 And he shall take a wife in her virginity.

Lev 21:14 A widow, or a divorced woman, or profane, [or] an harlot, these shall he not take: but he shall take a virgin of his own people to wife.

Jesus Christ is our high priest today and he is also our bridegroom.

* Hbr 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession.

* Luk 5:34 And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them?

Luk 5:35 But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

Jesus is espousing Christians as virgins to take as his wife. A spiritual virgin is uncorrupted in her mind, having not accepted a false Christ, a false spirit or a false Gospel.

* 2Cor 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present [you as] a chaste virgin to Christ.

2Cor 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2Cor 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or [if] ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with [him].

Here is another quality of a spiritual virgin. She cares not for the things of the world, but for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit.

* 1Cor 7:34 There is difference [also] between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please [her] husband.

We see in this parable that even though the virgin is spiritually the highest quality of Christian there is, she may fail to enter the Kingdom of God by not being prepared to meet Christ when he comes. The way to be ready to meet Christ is for Christians to take oil in her lamp so that her lamp will not go out.

There was a lamp in the tabernacle, and the Lord commanded that it must be burning always.

* Exd 27:20 And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.

Exd 27:21 In the tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which [is] before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the Lord: [it shall be] a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel.

In the New Testament Christians are the spiritual tabernacle or temple of God because God dwells in them by his spirit. So all the things described in the physical temple have a spiritual meaning for Christians today.

* 1Cor 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1Cor 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which [temple] ye are.

Here are some scriptures showing what the lamp is symbolic of.

* 2Sa 22:29 For thou [art] my lamp, O Lord: and the Lord will lighten my darkness.

* Psa 119:105 Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

* Pro 6:23 For the commandment [is] a lamp; and the law [is] light; and reproofs of instruction [are] the way of life:

* Isa 62:1 For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp [that] burneth.

From these scriptures we can see that to deny the Lord, to neglect his word, his commandments, righteousness and our calling to salvation will put our lamp out.

Here are other scriptures showing how it can be put out.

* Pro 13:9 The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.

Note: The word wicked here is the Hebrew 'rasha' meaning a criminal, one hostile to God and guilty of sin.

* Pro 20:20 Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.

Note: It is interesting that this one commandment is singled out as cause for the lamp to be put out. When we consider the spiritual meaning of Father and Mother, it makes more sense. Our spiritual Father is God the Father, and Jesus defined our spiritual Mother as all those who are doing the will of God. Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and MOTHER. To offend fellow Christians, then, is the same as cursing our mother, and this will put our lamp out. Jesus warned that this would happen before his coming. Mat 24:48-49 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite [his] fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;...

The foolish virgins did not bring oil in their lamps. The symbolism of oil begins with the table in the tabernacle where the candlestick was set.

* Exd 35:14 The candlestick also for the light, and his furniture, and his lamps, with the oil for the light,

The Lord commanded for the oil to be prepared and brought in daily to light the lamp in the tabernacle.

* Exd 27:20 And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always.

Exd 27:21 In the tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which [is] before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the Lord: [it shall be] a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel.

As we see here, the oil is produced on a daily basis and keeps the light ever burning. The light represents our good works of Christian living as it shines on the candlestick which represents the church.

* Mat 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Mat 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

* Rev 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Oil for lamps came from 'beaten' or 'crushed' olives. As we humbly 'judge ourselves' on a daily basis and seek for the 'reproofs of instruction' from God's word, and practice those instructions in the way we live, we produce the oil that keeps our lamps burning.

* Psa 141:5 Let the righteous smite me; [it shall be] a kindness: and let him reprove me; [it shall be] an excellent oil, [which] shall not break my head:

* 1Cor 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

1Cor 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

* Hbr 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

Hbr 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

* Pro 6:23 For the commandment [is] a lamp; and the law [is] light; and reproofs of instruction [are] the way of life:

As Christians, we need to be diligent to be ready to meet Christ when he returns. Those who sell the oil we need for our lamps are any who might provide the reproofs of instruction we need to keep our zeal for the Lord hot and our lights burning. Let us seek out the reproofs of instruction we need from God's word while there is time and not procrastinate the preparing of ourselves. Here is a promise from the Lord to those whom he finds ready when he comes with their lights burning.

* Luk 12:35 Let your loins be girded about, and [your] lights burning;

Luk 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.

Luk 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.