



The Power Of Wisdom

“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding” (Proverbs 4:7).

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Earth is a stage of preparation for life in eternity, and there are no dress rehearsals. Every word or action is live and contributes to the end game. It is often said that **Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance**. Jesus' parable of the 10 virgins clearly brings out these truths.

“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. 2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 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. 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. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh” (Matthew 25:1-13).

This parable teaches us that:

- 1) There are wise and foolish people, who cannot be differentiated by their external looks and appearances but their actions and preparations expose (or betray) which category they belong to. Note that all the 10 were virgins, they all took their lamps and all had the same purpose - going forth to meet the bridegroom (vs 1). They all tarried, slumbered and slept (vs 5) while waiting for the bridegroom. They all heard the midnight cry (vs 6) signalling the arrival of the bridegroom. They all rose up, trimmed their lamps (vs 7) in preparation to go out and meet the bridegroom.
- 2) The foolish took no extra oil for their lamps

“Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her” (Proverbs 4:8).

whereas the wise did (vs 2-4). The wise were insightful and cautious in preparing for the end game, by taking extra oil just in case their lamps run out; whereas the foolish were carefree, and in a desire to travel light, made no provision for the essentials.

- 3) On waking up and realising that they had ran out of oil, the foolish virgins begged the wise ones for some oil to keep their lamps burning (vs8), but the wise gave a wise answer, that prompted the foolish to go out in search of oil to buy. At midnight, it probably would have been harder to find sellers to buy extra oil from, and they probably did not consider this in their initial plans. By the time they bought the oil and came back, the bridegroom had arrived, the door had been shut and the wedding commenced.
- 4) These foolish virgins were ready for the wedding after buying the oil for their lamps, but they were ready too late. There is time for everything, including the right time for preparation. If we prepare for heaven when it is too late, we will miss the rapture and the marriage supper of the lamb.
- 5) No amount of knocking or weeping could get them into the feast; but rather a stern response from the bridegroom “Verily I say unto you, I know you not” (vs 12).
- 6) The wise who were ready, welcomed the bridegroom on arrival, and participated in the wedding feast.
- 7) This is an important lesson for all, to **make hay while the sun shines**. Christ is coming back soon (vs 13). These are days of preparations. How are you using all of the opportunities available to you today to prepare for the rapture. Remember, **it is better to prepare than to repair!**