

Matthew Lesson 25

Last week we left our lesson as Yeshua told the parable of the fig tree. The fig tree, of course was Israel, and we were **to know something about this fig tree**, Israel - What were we suppose to know? We were suppose to know that when Israel returned as a nation and began to prosper, it represented the fig tree blooming. Now we see "all these things" that Yeshua spoke of in Matthew 24 happening, and we see the time of Jacob's Trouble right in front of us, and yet He also warned when He spoke of these times being as the days of Noah, that no one would know the exact day and hour when He will cause "all these things take place."

He follows this with another parable, *the parable of the wise and foolish virgins*.

Matthew 25:1 Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.



What is this parable about? It is still about comparing a wedding to the kingdom of heaven. Do you remember when in chapter 22 Yeshua said that, The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son. Here, Yeshua is teaching about the kingdom, something unknown, by using a marriage, which is something they are very familiar with. He is still trying to focus their attention on the kingdom.

**Why do you think this is so important to Him? Look at the faces in this picture. They say so much. What do you see when you look at the faces of these virgins? Is there fear or concern?

The virgins that have the light appear to have no fear. Instead they have joy. Why would they have this joy? They are ready! What does it take to be ready?

Matthew 25:2- 4 Now five of them were wise and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

They are ready!

Back to our question - What does it take to be ready? One of the main sources of oil in Israel was the olive. If anyone has ever tasted an uncured olive, you know they are terribly bitter. For an olive to be in a state where it can be eaten, they have to be cured. For oil to come out of an olive, it has to be crushed. The ones who were prepared and had oil. Were these the ones that allowed themselves to be crushed? Crushing involves suffering. When we allow ourselves to go through suffering to be a witness for the Lord, or if we have to go out of our way and deny ourselves so we can go do good for others, or you name the thing for which you are willing to suffer, then the oil is being produced. The beautiful thing about this is that the Holy Spirit will make us ready to do what is necessary and strengthen us - Not by might not by power but by My Spirit - but we have to be willing to be crushed.

Remember Yeshua prayed before He went to the cross. He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The word gethsemane is derived from two Hebrew words: gat, which means "a place for pressing oil (or wine)" and shemanim, which means "oils."

The olive crusher was the stone basin used to crush olives into pulp. A donkey pushed on a horizontal beam, which in turn rolled a millstone that crushed ripe olives (placed in a large, round basin) into a pulp. An olive crusher was often placed in a cave, where the moderate temperature improved the efficiency of the oil production. (Ray Van der Laan)

Song of Songs 1:3 Your anointing oils are fragrant; **your name is oil poured out, therefore virgins love you.**

What the shepherd is willing to do for these virgins is incredible. His sacrifices are a beautiful scent to them. His anointing oils are fragrant; they draw people to Him. His very name is "oil poured out." He is willing to be crushed for them. Remember, Yeshua prayed in the garden of Gethsemane...a place of crushing.

Matthew 26:38,39 Then He said to them, My soul consumed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me. Going a little farther, He fell facedown and prayed, My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will.



He knew what He was facing, but was willing to do what the Father was asking Him.

James 1:2,3 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance....

Matthew 5:12

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets before you.

Romans 5:3

Not only that, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;

**Why do we want perseverance?

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.

And what is the oil used for?

Exodus 25:6 oil for the lamps; spices for the anointing oil and spices for the sweet-smelling incense.

What is the purpose of a lamp, except to give light?

Another version says: **Exodus 25:6** Oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense;

We know there can't be light without oil. For the true light of Messiah to come, there has to be crushing. Remember it says that He was slain from the foundation of the world! (Revelation 13:8)

Now let's put these verses about the oil into context

Exodus 25:1-6 The Lord said to Moses, Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goatskins,¹ acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense,

This oil that is given with a willing heart to be used in the tabernacle - the place of G-d's dwelling. this tabernacle is a replica of what is happening in heaven. Yeshua is teaching about the kingdom of heaven. How do we arrive there? With our lamps burning. How do we know our lamps have to be burning.



Matthew 25:5-13 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept, and at midnight a cry was heard; Behold, the bridegroom is coming, go out and meet him! Then all those virgins arose and stilled their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. But the wise answered, saying No lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward, the other virgins came also, saying Lord, Lord, open to us! But he answered and said, Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you. Watch, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Why was this light so important that without it the door is shut and won't be opened?

Exodus 27:20 You shall charge the sons of Israel, that they bring you clear oil of beaten olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually.

****How is the oil produced that lights the lamps? How often are they to burn?**

****How do you see this as the lesson in the story of the 10 virgins?**

Matthew 25:14- For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.

This parable is about understanding the heart of the master - our Master.

To develop our gifts, we concentrate on His attributes.

Exodus 34:6,7 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, The LORD the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and sin, by no means clearing the guilty,

.....

When we concentrate on His goodness, we will use the talents to glorify Him. When we look at His attributes we know that He is for us.

****How do we show that we are for Him? How do we show that we want to give Him glory?**

The bottom line in this story is about G-s and His character - His goodness to give gifts to us. Have you ever tried to imagine a world of people walking around without gifts. Nothing would be developed - we wouldn't be able to do good for one another and on and on.

He gives us gifts so we use them, and He receives the glory.

He gives us gifts so we can work with Him and establish His Kingdom on earth.



Yeshua closes this chapter with examples of how to use your talents.

In Matthew 25:35-40...for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in:

I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. The the righteous will answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take you in or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You? And the King will answer and say to them, Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.

This is the practical test of faith. As James says:

James 2:16-17 If one of you tells him, Go in peace; stay warm and well fed, but does not provide for his physical needs, what good is that? So too, faith by itself, if it does not result in action, is dead.

Our actions prove the reality of our faith in Yeshua. Our actions are what bring light into the world.

And just as the door was closed to the 10 virgins, listen to what happens to those who don't put their faith to work:

Matthew 25:41-46 Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me. And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."



****Yeshua called some in this parable "righteous." Who did He call righteous?**

****Do you see similarities between the virgins whose oil has run out, and the unrighteousness in the above parable?**