

Matthew 25:1-13 – The Foolish & Wise.

There were three stages to a Jewish wedding in that day. The first was *engagement* – a formal agreement made by the fathers. The second was *betrothal* – the ceremony where mutual promises are made. The third was *marriage* – approximately one year later when the bridegroom came at an unexpected time for his bride.

“When the bridegroom came, the bride-maids, who were attending the bride, went forth to meet the bridegroom, with lamps lighted, to conduct him and his companions into the house, and to her who was to be the bride.” (Poole)

There were usually **ten** bridesmaids in a bridal procession. Now the wedding party waits for the coming of the **bridegroom**, who could come at any time, day or night

It was announced that the groom was on the way at midnight while the all slept; some were prepared for the night by filling their lamps with oil, others weren't. Those who didn't have oil in their lamps weren't allowed to the wedding. They tried to ask from those who had in vain.

The **foolish** maids were unprepared because they lacked oil for their lamps. Oil is an emblem of the Holy Spirit and without the Holy Spirit; no one is ready for the return of Jesus.

Olive oil is a good representation of the Holy Spirit for many reasons.

- Oil *lubricates* when used for that purpose – there is little friction and wear among those who are lubricated by the Spirit of God.
- Oil *heals* and was used as a medicine– the Spirit of God brings healing.
- Oil *lights* when it is burned in a lamp – where the Spirit of God is, there is light and heat.
- Oil *refreshes* when used to massage – the Holy Spirit refreshes us for His service.
- Oil *adorns* when applied as a perfume – the Holy Spirit makes us more pleasant to be around.
- Oil *polishes* when used to shine metal – the Holy Spirit wipes away our grime and smoothes out our rough edges.

[Judges 6:34](#) - *But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon...*

Judges 11:29 - *Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah...*

Judges 14:19 - *Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily...*

1 Samuel 16:13 - *...the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.*

1 Samuel 16:14 - *But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.*

Joel 2:16 - *Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the **bride** from her dressing room.*

Ephesians 5:18-21 - *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God*

D.L Moody said, "I believe firmly that the moment our hearts are emptied of pride and selfishness and ambition and everything that is contrary to God's law, the Holy Spirit will fill every corner of our hearts. But if we are full of pride and conceit and ambition and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God. We must be emptied before we can be filled."

"May not a single moment of my life be spent outside the light, love and joy of God's presence and not a moment without the entire surrender of myself as a vessel for Him to fill full of His Spirit and His love." Andrew Murray.

2 Corinthians 3:18 - *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Revelation 22:17 - *And the Spirit and the **bride** say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
Keep me burning 'til the break of day