

In Yeshua's parable of the ten maidens, five are wise and five are foolish



10“But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with Him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. 11Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’

12“But He called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you!’ 13“So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return. Matthew 25:10-13

The Wise Get Oil

Thirty one years ago this fall I left Oklahoma to head out to Colorado with my car loaded up with the bulk of my simplified items. I really didn't know what to expect as I started out on a new adventure. As I met at my parents home right before leaving with approximately a dozen of my closest friends at the time, I talked about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins in Matthew 25. This was that main passage that was on my heart as I shared about my need to get oil. Ever since that time I have been very interested in understanding and

applying this parable.

Here are a few interesting observations:

The parable is talking about us as Believers being ready for Yeshua's return. The five wise and five foolish virgins appear to all be Believers as they were those who believed in the Bridegroom and knew He was coming.

I believe the oil represents a developed and sustained intimacy with Yeshua which is not transferrable to others. Five of the Believers cultivated this and five didn't.

The consequences for the unprepared Believers were dire in the context of this parable.

I listened to a very convicting and encouraging teaching from this past Sabbath (in the link below) that shared a bit about this parable. So, I was again thinking about this parable this week and how I need to grow in prioritizing procuring oil from Yeshua. My main thoughts were that the main way to procure this oil from Yeshua was:

- Prioritize quantity and quality time to spend with Him. This time spent with Him is a sign of our love for Him. To prioritize this time, other things will need to be left behind.
- Bring words and melodies to Him with me. These words and songs should be focused on abiding in Him and asking for greater love for and connection with Him. I find that singing is important and when I'm singing to Him my heart more fully comes alive.

I also thought of the promise to the most lukewarm and backslidden church in Revelation 3:14-22. Yeshua promises to anyone of these backslidden that He will help them if they come to Him to buy gold (what's valuable to Him), eye salve (which helps us see things as He sees them), and white garments (which are the righteous acts of us as the saints). He also promises to answer the door as we open it in response to His knocking and calling to us. Basically, this will work for anyone who hears these words and lines up their life accordingly.

It really isn't hard to understand these things, but I'm asking for greater follow-through with Yeshua to make these things a higher priority. I need a greater intimacy with Him, and I bet you do too.