

Amir Tsarfati Parable of the Ten Virgins

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1gsUux2Ddk&t=169s

This is a topic that the Lord put on my heart, especially in the time of Covid, where a lot of people have their faith tested. A lot of churches, a lot of pastors, a lot of churchgoers, a lot of Christians across the world, we're being conditioned as you all see. All across the world for the first time since the tower of Babel, for the first time since the tower of Babel, the entire planet is under the same regulations, rules, and dancing to the same music. First time ever. First time ever. This is a time unlike any other time in the history of humanity. Even in world wars, when they were killing in Japan and Korea, they were dancing in Argentina. Even in World War I and World War II, you name it, almost every major event that is kind of a traumatic one in the history of our planet, it's one area of the world that suffered while the other area had its own life



going on. For the first time, all countries are dancing to the music of one international organization and Christianity has been tested. Why? Because is "church" the only place to practice Christianity? Four walls, two doors, a roof? People were tested.

It's very interesting, I believe that world events are not waiting for you to decide whether you follow Jesus or not. Globalism is on its highest gear right now. The Middle East has never been more ready than it is right now for the major events of Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, like never before. I always say that our world has two tracks: World events, and our own walk with the Lord. Our walk with the Lord will never ever affect world events. You can now stand up, and protest, and try to stop the rise of the Antichrist in the future, (and) guess what? He will rise. You can now go, and with your own body try to stop the invasion of the coalition that will come against Israel as in Ezekiel 38, (and) guess what? They will invade.

You can now protest all the globalism that is going on around the world and guess what? You may have four more years, but after that it will continue. I mean the effort to destroy your country, destroy all countries, and to rebuild something that will fit the ruler of the world in the future is on the move. It's on the go. You cannot change it. It has been foretold but you can change your location when these world events are taking place by the decisions that you make in your life. This is why we will talk about the Middle East update and all that is going on around the world at the end of second service, but I want you to know one thing: It is nothing compared to the most important thing and it is to make sure you are saved.

Let's pray and then enter into the Word. Father, we thank You so much for Your Word. We thank You, Father, that You do not wish that any will perish, but that all will come to the saving knowledge of Your Son, Jesus. You are not late as some count to be slackness, but You are long-suffering. Father, I thank You that we are still, even this morning, can preach Your Word, Your message of hope, and love, and faith, but only through Christ. Father we ask that this morning the hearts of the people here, and those that are watching from all around the world will be touched and changed, according to Your will and Your purpose. We thank You and we bless You in Jesus' name. Amen.

So, the title of the message this morning is, "The Parable of the Ten Virgins," as you know. And just to remind you, this is part of a what we call the Olivet Discourse. The reason why I felt so urged to share this message this morning is in the last few weeks I have been exposed to a new breed of Christianity that I didn't even know that exists. I'm not even sure if I can call it Christianity, but I certainly can tell you these people profess to believe in Jesus Christ. I've seen videos that were sent to me of people spewing Nazi propaganda against the Jewish

people and they said that in the name of Jesus. I've seen people horribly hating not just the Jews, by the way, but hating anyone, any group of people, any ethnic group is something that *completely contradicts* the Word of God. I've seen those things being done in the name of Jesus, using verses that were taken out of context, and they were said by people with hundreds of thousands of followers online. And people are drinking that Kool-Aid and they're horribly influenced by it. In fact, one of the speakers at the Republican National Convention that was there a few weeks ago, had to be removed because she was retweeting one of those anti-Semitic messages. No discernment, no Scriptures, nothing, and I thought to myself, the church is *saturated* with people that don't know God. They have no clue (about) the heart of God, the will of God, the plan of God, and the Word of God.

So, the Olivet Discourse as you all know, Matthew 24-25, is the portion of the Scriptures where Jesus literally answered questions of His disciples on top of the Mount of Olives, questions that were for the most part asked by Jewish people who lived in the land of Israel and they were at the city of Jerusalem during the Jewish holidays, and these are the things, and the themes, and the topics that bothered them. It was the temple, it was the last days, it was the return of the Messiah, it was His kingdom, it was everything and Jesus, in those two chapters, explained to them the whole thing from two angles. Let me talk to you now as the Jews first, and tell you what's going to happen to Israel; and then let me talk to you as believers, and what's going to happen with the believers for the rest of the time.

In Matthew 24, the first portion from verse 4-31 it's all about Israel's future and we know that because the Bible tells us. He's speaking of Jerusalem, He's speaking of Judea, He's speaking of the Sabbath, He's speaking of all those things that they absolutely have nothing to do with anyone in Miami Beach or in Miami-Dade County. When you see those things flee to the

mountains—hello—here? [Florida is very flat] When you see those things, pray that it you won't flee on the Sabbath day—hello? You must understand that He's talking to Jews in Jerusalem about the future of Israel and is absolutely referring to the end time events of Israel. Make no mistake, Jesus knowing that Israel will reject Him, and knowing that the next 2,000 years they will live trying to establish their own righteousness as Romans 9 and 10 are telling us, He knows that they will go through what Jeremiah says in chapter 20, what Daniel says in chapter 12: Jacob's trouble. They will go through a trouble. They will unfortunately choose the wrong person as Messiah. He will bring them "fake peace," he will break that peace, and then he will enter the temple and demand to be worshipped as if he is God. And they will flee, and Jesus tells them, "When that happens, don't even go home, and pack your things, just run!"

But then in verses 30-35 (of Matthew 24), He stops speaking about all the apocalyptic events all around the world that will of course talk about Israel as well, and then He says, "Learn this parable from the fig tree." It's the same fig tree that He talked about earlier—two chapters earlier—the same fig tree, which is the religious spirit of Israel, which is the national symbol of Israel, knowing that it will be coming to an end, and it will take 2,000 years for them to come back and reestablish a country, and return back to their land. He says that fig tree is going to come back to life and that generation that will live to see the fig tree coming back to life, *that generation* shall not pass away He said, speaking of the Rapture of the church.

And then He moves to Matthew 25:1-13 and He says, ""¹ Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³ Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶ And at midnight a

cry was heard: "Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!" ⁷ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, "No, lest there should be not enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves." ¹⁰ 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." And it's interesting because we can see that then He says, "" Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us!" ¹² But he answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you I do not know you." ¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

Wow! And so, there were so many questions running in my mind when I read this portion for the first time. I remember I was like, "Wow, who is He talking about here?" It's obviously not just one virgin, it's obviously 10, obviously all of them had some fire, had some light in their lamps. But some had oil, and some did not: foolish and wise. And then I thought to myself, "Okay, some are ready, and some they may have needed a few more days or minutes." But then I was *shocked* when I read His reply, when they asked Him to open and they want in also, and He said, "I do not know you." Hmm, I'm thinking to myself, how many people think they know Him, but they know nothing?

Interesting, it starts with a—obviously it's a parable, we're being told, "The kingdom of Heaven is *like...*" So, we're not talking about 10 "real" virgins, we're talking about a very symbolic way to describe an important event, the kingdom of Heaven. Very interesting, "...is like." It's not, will be like... *is* like, was like then 2,000 years ago when He talked about it, and still is today. **Psalm 103:19** says, "The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His

kingdom rules over all." Luke 17:20-21, He was cornered by the Pharisees and look what He says: "20 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come," Jesus, the Son of God, God in the flesh standing right before them, God is with us, Emmanuel. Isn't that interesting? What is your name? [Amir: points to someone in the audience] Marco. Can you imagine somebody comes to you and says, "Marco when will Marco show up?" "Hello, I'm Marco!" and "... He answered them and said, 'The kingdom of God does not come with observation; ²¹ nor will they say, "See here!" or "See there!"" See, people want to see something, they want a sign, they want to...No. "... the kingdom of God is within you." He said.

Look, Jesus, the first words He said in his public ministry were, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand." He didn't say to them, "Repent for the kingdom of God will come in 2,000 years!" Yeah sure, that repentance message will go well. Ladies and gentlemen, in Matthew 6:31-34: ""³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek." Gentiles in those days were the non-believers in God and in His Word. They don't know Him. All they want is just the cares—and look says, by the way, He says, ""...For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things." But look what He says, what you really need to always look for, and seek for, and ask for, and make sure you have: "⁴³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Now we have to also remember that in the kingdom of God, He's sovereign over everything. But in Matthew 12 it says that Satan's kingdom, in verse 26, is that which God

allows Satan to control. Make no mistake, God is allowing, at the moment, Satan to have a certain capacity. And you can ask me now, why? It's a good question. Why? Why? Well, let me tell you something: Free will is what makes us different. God could have created robots. He could have created us only as programmed people that will just do whatever He says, couldn't He? He could. But I am asking you now, so when we tell Him we love you, is it really a love that He's looking for? If your children will be programmed chemically, scientifically, to tell you that [Amir: in a robotic monotone voice]: "I love you, I love you, I love you." Would you consider that as true love? Or despite everything, with everything that is going on because evil is there, do you love Me? Because *that's* love. This is the love you want your children to love you, this is the love you want your spouse to love you, this is the love God wants His children to love Him. To love Him in spirit and in truth, to be His, to *choose* Him.

What is to choose Him? There are choices in this world. He said in in the book of Deuteronomy He says, "Here I put before you, death and life, choose life." (paraphrase of Deuteronomy 30:19). Evil and good. It's a choice that we have to make. Daniel 4 says that God permits evil men to rule at different times, and it was kingdoms like this that Satan basically offered to Jesus in Matthew 4:8... it's all Satan can offer is what he has dominion over.

Interesting, I looked at the whole aspect of the virgins, and I'm at first, I had thought they were all dressing in white and all. I don't know why, but the Bible doesn't say that. It was all here [points to his head] and then I thought to myself, "Who could those virgins be?" And honestly, I must say a lot of Bible scholars didn't get it. You know when you study the Word of God, quote the Word of God, when you study the Word of God don't tell me "But this guy said this, and this guy..." No, that's nice that he said it, but what is the Word of God saying? And sometimes you can quote a wonderful scholar, he could be right on so many other things, but he

could be wrong with this one. Quite a few scholars, believe it or not, think that the ten virgins are a picture of Israel. I'm saying to myself, "Hmm. When in the Bible will Israel be taken, and some will be left?" Nowhere. If anything, when they see Him coming, they will accept Him. When He comes to earth to reign and rule for a thousand years, that's when all Israel will be saved. Israel is not to be taken partially and some are—no, in fact, let me tell you I have great respect for a teacher called John Wolvrood, who is known as the father of modern-day Bible prophecy teachings. But he, I believe, got it wrong when he said, "The passage itself uses none of the characteristic terms relating to the church such as bride, body, or expression in Christ. Instead, we see that the ten virgins are merely bridesmaids who would be attending the wedding."

Things to Keep in Mind The Old Testament - God is seen as the Husband of Israel (Isaiah 54:4–6; 62:4-5; Hosea 2:19). The New Testament - Christ is seen as the Bridegroom of the Church (John 3:27–30; Matthew 9:15; Mark 2:19–20). The Church is described in Scripture as the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25–32).

Well, I'm just telling you guys, things that you must keep in mind, watch this: in the Old Testament, God is seen as the husband of Israel. You can read that in Isaiah 54, in Isaiah 62, in Hosea 2. And in the New Testament, Christ is seen as what?

The Bridegroom of the church. And the church also is described in the Scriptures as the bride of Christ. So, Isaiah 54:4-5 says: "4 'Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame;" That's about Israel, "For you will forget the shame of your youth, and will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. ⁵ For your Maker is your husband," And by the way, I can prove to you from the Scriptures that the Lord was like a husband to Israel. Israel went after others, and there was what the Bible describes as divorce, and then coming back together, and it's all backed by Scriptures. But it was

a husband and a wife type of description of the relationship between God and Israel. But even in Isaiah 62:4-5: "4 You shall no longer be termed Forsaken," That's the reuniting Israel with God, "Nor shall you your land any more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵ For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you." He said, Hosea 2:19: "19 'I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy..."

And look what John said in John 3:27-30: "27 John answered and said, 'A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, "I am not the Christ," but "I have been sent before Him." 29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease." Matthew 9:15: "15 And Jesus said to them, 'Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast." Mark 2:19-20: "19 And Jesus said to them, 'Can the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast. 20 But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days."

Then of course look at this: Ephesians 5:25-32: "25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a

glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and



cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak

concerning Christ and the church." The marriage will only happen when they will be joined together in flesh. When they will come—we will go, and the Bible says that once we go up and meet Him in the clouds, we will never be separated from Him again, never. Wherever He goes, He comes back to earth, we come back with Him; He reigns, we reign with Him; He judges, we with judge with Him. This is it, we're with Him the whole time.

Remember, we do not know when Jesus is coming for His bride, but it's our job to be ready. And whatever we're doing, we need to be seeking to live unashamed in order for any of this to matter, one must know Jesus. Now look, you know, I struggled. I struggled a lot with the fact that the Rapture is the only event in the foreseeable, prophetic plan of God for the salvation of the whole world—the *only* event that has no timing. Look, Israel received the timetable by Daniel. Daniel told them exactly what's going to happen in those 70 weeks... they know exactly. They could have counted the days and known exactly the entrance of Jesus to Jerusalem on April 6, 32 AD, if they only listened and counted those 69 weeks x 7 [days/week] x 360 [days/Jewish year] you get 173,880 days. And when you start counting from the day the king allowed Nehemiah to build the temple—the temple and the city—all the way, you would know *exactly* the day Jesus [would] enter for the Jews in Jerusalem.

So Israel knows its future. We also know that the Antichrist and the entire Jacob's trouble will be seven years. We know it's two chapters of 1,260 days each. Israel knows. But we don't know the minute, the day, the hour—we don't, and there is a reason for that. Look, Israel knew; were they ready when He came? [Shakes head no, "Mm-mm"] When you don't know, you need to be ready at all times. It's very interesting because John 3:16 says, "'16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have..." What? "everlasting life." That's all you need to know. You have eternal life. You know, the length of eternity is no longer there, it's eternity. John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life." Say with me: "...No one comes to the Father except through Me." Can we say no one once again? [Audience: "No one..."] No one comes to the Father except through Me. No one; neither the Jew nor the Gentile; no one comes to the Father except through Him.

Romans 10:9-10: "9 ...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." You know you can say, the question is, do you believe in your heart? These two things cannot be separated. You see, you can come to church and sing, you can give money, you can be a member... If your heart does not believe—and how do you know that you believe? You know when all you long for is that Jesus will come back. You know when all you want is to do good, not evil. You know when you hate evil, and you love good. You know when you see the work of the Holy Spirit in you in discernment what is of Him and what is not. You see how the Word of God works in you and through you. But if you don't even read the Word of God, if you don't even spend time with the Lord, how in the world do you expect Him to say, "I know you"

when the time comes? 1 Corinthians 15:1-4: "1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which



also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain." You believed in... Look, the only way to believe not in vain is if you are holding fast to what? The Word,

"³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures..." The Word of God! How often do you even *open* it? How often do you even *read* it? How of how often do you even *believe* in it?

This is a challenging thing this morning that I'm throwing at you right now, but I'm telling you folks, the days are evil. If you think you've seen evil, you've seen nothing. Why? We'll see why in a few minutes. Ephesians 2:1-3 says: "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience," There is a spiritual battle out there. Do you really think that people who walk with signs that say, "I am proud that I'm going to Hell"? Do you think it's not spiritual? I saw yesterday someone dressed in a satanic outfit and he's holding a sign, (it) says: "No knee shall bow." It's a spiritual thing. "3 ...among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others." We were just like them before we knew Christ. Now when you leave church and Sunday night comes, and Monday morning comes, where are you are you? Are you on the side of what you were, or what you still are? Or are you a new person with the renewal of the mind, with a new heart, and a new spirit? Someone who has the most amazing

thing on planet earth, David, King David, when his sin was exposed—and his sin was a sin—not that you can grade sins, but when was the last time you guys slept with a married woman, and sent her husband to die in a battlefield? You see, that was something that David did, King David! And David when his sin was exposed, when he came clean, and when he wrote **Psalm 51:11** he says "...11 do not take Your Holy Spirit from me." "This is the only way I can live. I cannot live without You. Wherever I go You are here You're with me. I cannot run away from You." David had such an amazing relationship with Jesus, with the Holy Spirit, with the Lord Himself. Everyone, you need to understand that David had the Holy Spirit as a.... you know Google Maps? You know Waze? How many of you know Waze? W-A-Z-E. Waze. It's an Israeli app just so you know, hello, [laughter] bought by Google, by the way, for over a billion dollars, but I want you to know that literally the Spirit of God was David's "Waze." "Show me Your ways ["Waze," pun intended] he said—never mind it's a joke [Audience: Laughter]. But everywhere he went, he asked God, "God, should I turn right, turn left, go up, go down?" Look at the whole conduct of David from chapter 13 of 1 Samuel all the way... you can see the amazing, amazing spiritual life that he was having. And you think that he wasn't tested, and the temptations were not there?

Galatians 5:22: "22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness..." Which one do you have, and which one don't you (have)? You know how many Christians don't have any? Honestly, I've known leaders that I'm looking at, (and) they're always unloving, they're not joyful, they don't have the peace, they don't have any patience, they always must react and do something, and they don't have kindness. They do evil things and they they're not faithful to the people around them, nor to anyone. I've seen it over and over, again and again. It is evident that you do not walk in the Spirit. You may not even

have the Holy Spirit. You may even think you have it, but you don't when you don't have the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Now look at this: there is extra oil and there is lacking oil here. Extra oil represents the born-again believers who are living holy lives in anticipation of the Lord's return, no matter how

Distinguishing Traits

Extra Oil - Represents the born again believers who are living holy lives in anticipation of the Lord's return, no matter how long it takes.

Lacking Oil - Individuals who were part of the Church but have no affiliation with Christ.

long it takes. So, some of you might say, "Well they were not ready, they were asleep." Hello. Do you go to sleep? The fact that we are waiting for His soon return

doesn't mean that we cannot go to sleep! But when He comes, we're ready. You don't have the Holy Spirit only during the daytime, and then you sleep, and then it catches you without the Holy Spirit at night. Lacking oil (are) individuals who were part of the church or were never part of part of the church *physically* but have no affiliation with Christ. See, I'm not talking about nonbelievers here, or excuse me, those who consider themselves non-Christians. I don't talk about them. All of them were virgins. All of them had lamps. All of them had the light in it. All of them were sure He is their Lord. All of them called Him Lord. Spurgeon said, "Sincere Christians are the wise virgins, and hypocrites the foolish ones, as in another parable they are represented by wise and foolish builders. [Henry] From the outside all ten virgins look the same: all are waiting; all have lamps; all even 'became drowsy and fell asleep.' The difference would only be seen when the lamp is needed for use." Spurgeon points out the similarities between the foolish virgins and hypocritical Christians. And of course, he says, "They may have thought that, if they had lamps that were that were similar to those carried by others, it would be sufficient. Perhaps they judged that the secret store of oil, being unseen, was unnecessary. They were willing to carry a lamp in one hand; but to devote the other hand to the care of an oil flask was more than they were willing to do. It is the want of the oil of grace that is the fatal flaw in many a professor's lamp. Many have a name to live, but have not the life of God within their souls. They make a profession of attachment to Christ, but they have not the inward supply of the Spirit of grace to keep it up. There is glitter or flash, but there is no permanent light, and there cannot be any, for although they have 'lamps,' they have no oil with them." [Spurgeon, 360]

Now make no mistake, another reason that I believe the Jewish people are not—this is

The rapture will take Jewish believers with the gentile church

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The rest will accept the mark and will NOT call.

not a parable of the Jewish people. The Rapture will take
Jewish believers such as myself with the Gentile church.

Do you think that if the Rapture comes, I'm going to stay

behind? I don't plan to. Don't wish me that. The tribulation and the Antichrist will cause a third of Israel not to accept the mark of the beast and God will shelter them in the wilderness as Revelation 12 says, three and one-half years, the latter part of the Tribulation, 1,260 days. The rest, however, will accept the mark of the beast and they will not call him Lord, Lord. This is not a parable about Israel. In 2 Corinthians 11:2: "For I'm jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." That's the church.

Now wisdom versus foolishness—it's not like some had a higher IQ, and some a lower IQ. It's not about that! Wisdom is the person of the Holy Spirit, make no mistake. Wisdom is the Wisdom is the Person only thing apart from God that appears in the story of the Holy Spirit the Creation, or can tell, or can testify that it was there

because it is the person of the Holy Spirit. Look what Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 says: "¹ Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice? ² She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet. ³ She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors: ⁴ 'To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of

men." and then "22 'The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. ²³ I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. ²⁴ When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains abounding with water. ²⁵ Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth; ²⁶ while as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, or the primal dust of the world. ²⁷ When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, ²⁸ when He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep, ²⁹ when He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, 30 then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, ³¹ rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my delight was with the sons of men." Phenomenal. And that's wisdom—the person of the Holy Spirit. To be wise is not to have 15 degrees from Florida State University, it's to have the Holy Spirit. Now you should be educated, I'm not saying don't, but you know what the real wisdom is. **Proverbs 4:5, 7 [NASB95]** says: "⁵ 'Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth." (Proverbs 4:7) "'7The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom; and with all your acquiring, get understanding." You know like I put the Hebrew there. You know why? Because the word "to acquire" in the Hebrew language is "purchase." How in the world could we have had the Holy Spirit? Who sent the Holy Spirit to us? Jesus. After He, what? Paid the full



price for our redemption. It was purchased.

So, you have to understand the concept of wisdom is found throughout the Bible. Wisdom is more desirable and important than any earthly thing as in 1 Kings 3:10-14. God promises wisdom to those who

ask for it as in James 1:5. Pride can corrupt our wisdom. By the way, who had his wisdom

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God promises wisdom to those who ask for it (James 1:5).
Pride can corrupt our wisdom (Ezekiel 28:14-18).

corrupted by pride? [Audience: "Satan"] Satan himself, Satan himself, you're so right. According to James there are two types of wisdom: human and spiritual. Let me show you.

James 3:13-17 "¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but it is earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above..." Remember the Holy Spirit came, they were in that upper room, it came from above. "¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."

Oil in your lamp, you must have, so you can shine your light. Matthew 5:14-16 says:

""14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do
they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who
Oil in Your Lamp So
You Can Shine Your
Light

"16 Let your light so shine before men," And if
you truly have the Holy Spirit in you, then you're not seeking to be

self-promoted. You're not actually seeking for your own glory. You're not writing a book so people will worship you and love you. You're not preaching, you're not posting things that people will love you more. Look, "...that they may see your good works and..." What? "glorify..." Who? "your Father in heaven." That's when you are a spiritual person. That's when the spiritual wisdom is in you.

By the way can you really buy this oil in that parable? Go and buy it? **Job 12:12-14** says, "12 Wisdom is with aged men, and with length of days, understanding. 13 With Him are wisdom and strength, He has counsel and understanding. ¹⁴ If He breaks a thing down, it cannot be rebuilt;" Look, basically, what Job is saying that it's not something that you can go and purchase by yourself. It's something that God purchased for you. And so, you cannot go to the store, it's not there. If you have that mindset (that) you can just go, already I know that you're not ready. They said, "'Lord, Lord,' and He said to them, 'I do not know you." How I Do Not Know You! tragic that people go to church all their lives, and He doesn't know them. That's what He said. In Matthew 7:21-23 "'21 Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." And look, He didn't say, "Very few people will say to Me in that day." What is He saying? Many. ""22Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name..."" This is—do you see an orthodox Jew prophesize in Jesus' name? No, but I see tons of televangelists do that. "... "prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" ²³ And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!""

What is "to practice lawlessness?" It is to practice exactly the opposite of the laws of God. That's lawlessness. They may look holy from the outside. You know, I have no clue who's sitting here right now, and how you walk with the Lord. The mere fact that you made it to church is nice, but I have no clue. And this morning you know, only you know and God, if you truly are (saved). Now, I'm not here to confuse you. No, I believe that we are coming to the very end; this is not the last days, this is the last hour. We're in the last minutes of the last hour of the last days. The bridegroom is about to come and there is a wedding for us to attend.

The bridegroom comes to take and to leave, just remember, Matthew 24:36-39, 42-43: "'36 But of that day and the hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. ³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know..." They did not know. You should be ready. The world will not know. You should be ready. I want to tell you something, "...42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. 43 But know this," There is one thing you need to know, "...43 that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come," Now Jesus is proclaimed as like "a thief" in the night. Who's the master of the house that is going to keep you from not leaving? Who? Who? Who is the master of the house? Matthew 4:8 (paraphrased): the devil took Him up on and showed Him all these things. Remember? Luke 4:5: "5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him the kingdoms of the world." John 8:44: "44 You are of your father the devil," Look what He says, ""44 ... When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it." John 12:31: "31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out." Who is the master of the house? [Audience: Satan] You see, and he should not know the day. So when we are out, he is surprised. You're ready! He's surprised. John 14:30: "30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me." John said—you know you can read all about it.

I just want to go all the way to the very end by saying this: If you are a born-again, Spirit-filled believer watching and eagerly waiting for the return of Jesus, you will not miss the coming of the bridegroom. I want you to remember that (**Hebrews 9:28**): "28 ... Christ was offered once

to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time,

apart from sin, for salvation." The redemption of our body from Romans 8:20-23.

If you are a born again, Spiritfilled believer watching and eagerly waiting for the return of Jesus, you will not miss the coming of the bridegroom!

And I will only conclude with this: I will

conclude with Titus 2 and if that's you, you're doing great. If it's not you, you need to be saved. Titus 2:11-14: "¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."

Father, I thank You that You have redeemed us. I thank You, Father, that You have given us the free gift of salvation, and the wonderful Holy Spirit to guide us, and lead us—that wisdom that we need. Father I ask right now that if there's anyone here that thinks that he's a believer, just because there is a little light in his lamp, but he has no oil to sustain it, because he doesn't have the Holy Spirit. He never really, truly, experienced what it is to be born from the Spirit from above, Father, I pray that today will be a day of salvation. Everything around the world tells us, "This is it. We're close to the finish line." Now all that is left is for us to be ready. Are we ready? Father, I thank You that Your Word is a warning sign for us, and that You may have delayed Your arrival so those that heard this message this morning, and they were not yet bornagain, Spirit-filled, will be on their knees today, asking forgiveness for their sins, and that the Holy Spirit from now on will be the captain of their ship. I thank You for what You're about to do in Your people and through Your people. We bless Your name, and we ask this in the

matchless and the most beautiful name of the Holy One of Israel, this Prince of peace, Lord of lords, Lion of the tribe of Judah, Lamb of God, Emmanuel, in the One that died for Israel and the world; He's the only hope of Israel and the world; and that is the only way to have your name written in the book of life; in His name, in the name of Yeshua, Jesus, we pray. And all of God's people say, Amen.

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* Scripture is taken from the New King James Version unless noted otherwise.