

The Parable of the Ten Virgins – Part 2

Lesson * 17: (Mt. 25:1-13; COL 405-421; GC 613-634)

In our last lesson we studied how the parable of the ten virgins was exemplified in the Millerite Movement of 1843-1844. In our lesson today we will analyze the broader fulfillment of this parable with those who will live upon the earth immediately before the second coming of Jesus.

The Setting and Timing of the Parable

1. Where was Jesus when he told the parable of the ten virgins? “Christ and his disciples were seated upon the Mount of _____.” (COL 405)
2. What was transpiring as Jesus told the parable, which made it even more vivid? _____
_____ (COL 405)
3. How do the marriage customs of the day help us comprehend the meaning of this parable? “The bridegroom goes forth to meet his bride and bring her to his _____. By torchlight the bridal party proceed from _____ father’s house to his own, where a _____ is provided for the invited _____.” (COL 405)
4. To which period of history does the parable of the ten virgins particularly apply? “He [Jesus] told His disciples the story of the ten virgins, by their experience _____ the experience of the church that shall live _____ before His second coming.” (COL 406)

Note: The immediately preceding context of Mt. 25:1-13 indicates that Ellen White’s time frame is correct. In Mt. 24:36-51 Jesus had been teaching the disciples about His second coming.

The Symbols of the Parable

1. What is represented by the lamps in the parable? “By the lamp is represented the _____ or God.” (COL 406; Ps. 119:105)
2. What is symbolized by the oil? “The oil is a symbol of the Holy _____.” (COL 407; Zachariah 4:1-14)
3. Why are the ten young women called “virgins”? “They are called virgins because they profess a _____ faith.” (COL 406; II Corinthians 11:2)
4. What do the two classes of virgins represent? “The two classes of watchers represent two _____ who _____ to be waiting for their Lord.” (COL 406; Mt. 25:13)

5. How does the Holy Spirit accomplish His work on earth? “So from the _____ ones that stand in God’s presence His Spirit is _____ to the human instrumentalities who are consecrated to His service.” (COL 408)

Note: Ellen White is here commenting on Zachariah 4. In the light of this chapter, it is clear that the Holy Spirit performs His work on earth through the ministration of the angels. It is in this sense the Spirit is omnipresent.

6. Whom does the bridegroom represent? “And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the _____ fast, while the _____ is with them? But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be _____ away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.” (Lk. 5:34-35)

Note: The context makes it very clear that the bridegroom in this passage is Christ. He was present with the disciples of the Pharisees and He would be taken away from them upon His ascension.

Wise and Foolish Virgins

1. In what way were all ten virgins similar? “In the parable, _____ ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom. _____ had lamps and vessels of oil. For a time there was no _____ between them. . . . _____ have a knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ’s near approach, and confidently expect His appearing.” (COL 408)
2. Though all ten virgins had lamps (the Bible), in what sense were the foolish virgins different? “They are _____ of the Holy Spirit. _____ the Spirit of God a knowledge of His word is of no avail. The _____ of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot _____ the soul or sanctify the heart.” (COL 408)
3. How did the foolish virgins regard the truth? “They have a regard for the truth, they have _____ the truth, they are _____ to those who believe the truth; but they have not _____ themselves to the Holy Spirit’s working.” (COL 411)
4. How were the foolish virgins similar to the “stony ground” hearers in the parable of the sower? “This class are represented also by the stony-ground hearers. They _____ the word with readiness, but they fail of assimilating its _____.” (COL 411)
5. What texts of Scripture does Ellen White employ to prove the point she made in question number four? _____ . (COL 411)

6. What type of service to God do the five foolish virgins render? “Their service to God degenerates into a _____.” (COL 411)

The Shutting of the Door and the Delay

1. Why couldn't the wise virgins give of their oil to the foolish virgins? “But character is not _____. No man can believe for another. No man can receive the Spirit for another. No man can impart to another the character which is the fruit of the Spirit's working.” (COL 412)

2. What verse of Scripture does Ellen White employ to back up the assertion in question number one? _____ (COL 412)

3. Was there a time in the past when it became impossible to “purchase” the oil of the Holy Spirit? “My Spirit shall not _____ strive with man, for that he is also flesh: Yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.” (Gen. 6:3)

Note: The one hundred and twenty years of probation was the time during which the Holy Spirit could mold and transform the character. After this period the Holy Spirit would not be available to the pre-flood race.

4. What happened when Noah finished the task of preaching? “And the Lord _____ him [Noah] in.” (Gen. 7:16)

Note: The Holy Spirit was withdrawn and the door was shut. No longer could people respond to the wooing of the Holy Spirit's voice. Yet it did not begin to rain at the precise moment the door was shut. Seven days transpired before destruction was unleashed. In the interim the faith of Noah and his family was severely tested.

5. What is represented by the closing of the door in the flood story and in the parable of the ten virgins? “The great final _____ comes at the close of human _____, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be supplied.” (COL 412)

6. What great event will reveal whether a person has been truly transformed by the Word through the power of the Holy Spirit? “So now, a sudden and unlooked-for _____, something that brings the soul face to face with _____, will show whether there is any real faith in the _____ of God.” (COL 412)

Note: There can be no doubt that Ellen White is referring to the universal death decree in Revelation 13:15 as the “unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death.”

7. What sobering remark does Ellen White make about the final plight of the five foolish virgins? “All claim to be _____. All have a _____, a _____, a _____, a _____, a _____.”

- lamp, and all profess to be doing God's _____ Five will be found surprised, dismayed, outside the banquet hall.” (COL 412)
8. How does Ellen White describe those who come to the time of trouble without the necessary character preparation? “Those professed Christians who come up to that last fearful conflict _____ will, in their despair, confess their _____ in words of burning anguish, while the wicked exult over their distress.” (GC 620)
 9. Why won't Jesus allow the “foolish virgins” to come into the wedding supper? “Its light would fall on _____ eyes, its melody upon _____ ears. Its love and joy could awake no chord of _____ in the world-benumbed heart. You are shut out from heaven by your own _____ for its companionship.” (COL 413)
 10. What biblical indication do we have that those who hear the words of doom “I know you not,” actually claimed to be Christians? “Many will say to me in that day, _____, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy _____? And in thy _____ have cast out devils? And in thy _____ done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I _____ knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Mt. 7:22-23)
 11. As in the time of Noah, will God's people experience a delay in the coming of the bridegroom? How will they face this delay? “The season of distress and _____ before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, _____, and hunger—a faith that will not _____ though severely tested. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time.” (GC 621)
 12. How will we be able to stand in the midst of the excruciating delay? “Only those who have been _____ students of the Scriptures and who have received the _____ of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. . . . To all the _____ time will come. By the sifting of temptation the genuine Christian will be revealed.” (GC 625)

Lighting the Path to the Bridegroom's House

1. What is represented by the virgins who light the way to the bridegroom's house? “So the _____ of Christ are to shed light into the _____ of the world.” (COL 414)
2. What is represented by the shining light of the lamps? “By _____ in their hearts the principles of His word, the Holy Spirit develops in men the _____ of God. The light of His glory—His character—is to shine forth in His followers.” (COL 414)
3. When Moses asked God to show him His glory, how did God respond? “And he said, I will make all my _____ pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the

LORD before thee; and will be _____ to whom I will be gracious, and will shew _____ on whom I will shew mercy.” (Ex. 33:18-19)

4. What is represented by “midnight” in the parable? “The coming of the bridegroom was at midnight—the _____ hour. So the coming of Christ will take place in the darkest hour of this _____ history. . . . The great _____ will develop into darkness deep as midnight, impenetrable as sackcloth of hair” (COL 414)
5. What will this “midnight” darkness bring upon God’s people? “To God’s people it will be a night of trial, a night of _____, a night of _____ for the truth’s sake. But out of that night of darkness God’s light will shine.” (COL 414-415)
6. In what sense will the world be in its greatest darkness before Jesus comes? “It is the darkness of _____ of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His _____. It has been misunderstood and _____ (COL 415)
7. What is the last message which will be imparted to the world by God’s people? “The last rays of merciful light, the last measure of _____ to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of _____.” (COL 415)
8. What symbol did Jesus employ to illustrate His mission and that of His followers? “I am the _____ of the world. . . . Ye are the _____ of the world.” (Jn. 9:5; Mt. 5:16, 16)
9. In practical terms, what does it mean to be the light of the world? “Practical work will have far more effect than mere _____. We are to give _____ to the hungry, _____ to the naked, and _____ to the homeless.” (COL 417)
10. How many people must be reached with the light of God’s glory? “From no _____, rank, or _____ of people is the light shining from heaven’s throne to be excluded.” (COL 418)
11. How can we become light bearers for God? “But no man can _____ that which he himself has not _____. In the work of God, humanity can _____ nothing. No man can by his own _____ make himself a light bearer for God.” (COL 418)
12. What is heaven’s most precious gift and why do we not receive it? “In the great and measureless gift of the Holy Spirit are contained _____ of heaven’s _____. It is not because of any _____ on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not _____ earthward to men. If all were willing to receive, all would become filled with His Spirit.” (COL 419)

13. How will we reveal that the Spirit is truly present in our lives? “The _____ of the Spirit will be shown by the _____ of heavenly love.” (COL 419)
14. What will characterize the true religion of Christ? “The religion of Christ means more than the _____ of sin; it means _____ away our sins, and filling the vacuum with the _____ of the Holy Spirit. . . . It means a heart emptied of _____, and blessed with the abiding presence of Christ.” (COL 420)
15. What must God’s people not **strive** to do? “Christ does not bid His followers _____ to shine. He says, _____ your light shine. If you have received the grace of God, the light is in you. Remove the _____, and the Lord’s glory will be revealed.” (COL 420)

Candidates for Heaven

1. What will happen when we reflect God’s glorious character? “And in currents of praise and thanksgiving from the many _____ thus won to God, glory will flow _____ to the great Giver.” (COL 420)

Note: The moon not only reflects the glory of the sun to earth but in the process, it glorifies the sun from which it received its light. The same is true of us. When the character of Jesus shines upon us, we reflect His glory and bring honor and glory to His name (see, Mt. 5:16)

2. What will happen when we are in constant communion with God’s glory? “They are prepared for _____; for they have heaven in their _____.” (COL 421)
3. What is Jesus waiting for in His people? “Christ is _____ with longing desire for the manifestation of _____ in His church. When the _____ of Christ shall be _____ reproduced in His people, then He will come to _____ them as His own.” (COL 69)