

**Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"**

Solomon said, *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."* He also said, *"Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding."* In one of the LORD's parables, HE contrasts the wise and the foolish virgins, and in so doing explains the difference between those professors of faith who enter the kingdom of heaven and those who are shut out. The nation of Israel considered themselves to be wise, yet their ultimate rejection of CHRIST as their KING and RULER, manifested their innate foolishness. They assumed that they were the heirs of the kingdom of GOD simply because of their natural birth and supposed adherence to the Law of Moses. This attitude is akin to the multitude of those today who consider that they are heirs of this Kingdom because they have a profession of faith in CHRIST.

All ten of these characters in the LORD's parable were virgins. A virgin is symbolic of that which is pure and in this parable I believe they represent those who have some sort of profession of faith that they expect will give them an entrance into the kingdom of heaven. They are not the unrepentant, profligate and profane members of the human race who shall all likewise perish. In this parable, I believe the foolish virgins illustrate the natural nation of Israel. By inference and according to the meaning of this parable as we might apply it in the present day these foolish "virgins" would also represent those who call themselves Christians but who in reality are so in name only without the fruit of the SPIRIT or the evidence of the new birth. The wise virgins, on the other hand, illustrate those who are the true sons of GOD, who are given the gift of salvation manifested by the indwelling of the HOLY SPIRIT in each one.

Those who are "wise" are made so by the sovereign grace of GOD totally apart from any merit or innate ability on their part. "Wisdom" is a gift bestowed by GOD. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." How can a man fear GOD except that the LORD gives him such reverence and awe? By nature men scoff at the WORD of GOD and cannot worship HIM in SPIRIT and TRUTH.

Both the wise and the foolish had lamps. All religions of the earth have some form of "light". In the case of the Jews, they were given a great deal of light. *"Unto them were committed the oracles of God."* While they were given great light, they preferred darkness, and even sought to kindle a light of their own making, all the while professing that they loved GOD's light. There are many so called "Christians" today who have done the same thing. They have hired teachers, who are willing to tickle their ears with a pleasant message which soothes their souls, salves their conscience, and leaves them sevenfold more the children of hell than before they heard it. They have turned aside from sound doctrine and believed myths and lies rather than truth.

While both the wise and foolish had oil in their "lamps" only the wise had "oil in their vessels". Oil is often typical of grace and the HOLY SPIRIT in the scriptures. A man may possess some "religious light" but unless HE is possessed by the HOLY GHOST and indwelt by the same, he cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* Men often make the mistake of thinking that the lighting of the lamp is the same as the continual burning of it. A man's lamp may be lit with a small amount of oil, but the only way that the lamp can continue to burn is with an abundant and continual supply of oil. The wise and the foolish virgins both fell asleep when they should have been watching. All men, whether they be the sons of GOD or the children of wrath, are alike by nature. All are worthy of destruction and all are prone to fail and prove unfaithful. *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves."* *"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."*

Only the wise had sufficient oil to keep their lamps burning. They each had just enough for themselves. *"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"*

The wise were able to go in with the BRIDEGROOM, while the foolish were shut out. The BRIDEGROOM said *"I know you not"* to those who came too late. Is this not exactly what HE said to those in the seventh chapter of Matthew, *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* Are you among the wise?

*"Thy free grace alone," #11* **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at [forthe poor@windstream.net](mailto:forthe poor@windstream.net)**