



The Life of Jesus (90)

The Parable of  
The Ten Virgins (2)



Matthew 25:1-13

# #1 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

## 3. Lamp and Oil

In the parable, lamps and oil play a very important role. They were what the ten virgins had to prepare to meet the bridegroom and enter the wedding banquet with Him.

lamps and oil are widely used in other Bible passages.

“Command the Israelites to **bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light** so that the lamps may be kept burning. In the tent of meeting, outside the curtain that shields the ark of the covenant law, **Aaron and his sons are to keep the lamps burning before the Lord from evening till morning.** This is to be a lasting ordinance among the Israelites for the generations to come” (Ex 27:20-21)

The fact that the lamps burned all night long served as a symbol of **God’s continuous guidance and protection** for the people of Israel.



## #2 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

### 3. Lamp and Oil

In order for the priests to keep the lamps burning, the Israelites had to bring clear oil to light the lamps.

If lamps are tools used for light, oil is the internal energy that enables them to work.

Some theologians interpret **the lamps** in the parable **as our outward actions** or Christian life and **oil as the internal energy and power** that enables us to continue to live as God's people.

In this sense, the oil can be interpreted as something like **our relationship with God, the presence of God, and the Holy Spirit.**

They are what enable us to live as true Christians while we're waiting for the second coming of Jesus Christ. No matter what we do and no matter how Christian we look outwardly, **if we're not fueled by the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit,** we can't properly prepare for the Lord's return.

## #3 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

### 3. Lamp and Oil

In the Bible, we find many verses in which the Holy Spirit is compared to anointing.

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Lk 4:18-19)

Jesus was sent by God to proclaim the good news, set the captives free from sin, and open the eyes of the blind. But Jesus didn’t do it alone. He was always filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus did many things on earth, yet He did nothing without the power of the Holy Spirit. Everything He did was done through the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

## #4 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

### 3. Lamp and Oil

That's the power that Jesus wants us to be filled with as well.

“As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world” (Jn 17:18)

Just as God didn't send Jesus to the world alone, Jesus also doesn't send us alone. When Jesus commands us to follow His way, He also gives us the power to do so. He anoints us with the Holy Spirit so that we can boldly go out to the world and carry out His ministry.

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth... You know him, for he lives with you and will be in you” (Jn 14:15-17)

Jesus knew that it's impossible for us to keep His commands alone. So He sent the Holy Spirit so that we may be empowered by Him and follow His commands on earth through His power.

## #5 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

### 3. Lamp and Oil

We need to always be filled with the Holy Spirit to live out the calling we received from God.

Without the anointing of the Holy Spirit, we can do nothing. We may look like 'Christians' outwardly but we may not have the internal power that makes us really move forward according to God's will.

In fact, without being guided by the Holy Spirit, we can't even understand what God's will is for us.

One of the main works that the Holy Spirit does in our lives is to **guide us to the truth** and let us understand it.

**"You have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth... the anointing you received from him remains in you... His anointing teaches you about all things..."** (1 Jn 2:20, 27)

**"When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth... and he will tell you what is yet to come"** (Jn 16:13)

# #6 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

## 3. Lamp and Oil

When we're anointed by the Holy Spirit, He will teach us everything we need to know. In other words, without being led by the Spirit, we can never truly understand God's will.

When we're filled with the Holy Spirit, we'll be guided to the truth and understand what God's will is through His wisdom.



Not only so, we'll be empowered by Him so that we start to do things that we couldn't do on our own.

This is the oil that we should always prepare as we wait for the return of Christ. God wants us to light our lamps and shine the light of Jesus to others. But **this can't happen unless we're filled with the Holy Spirit.** It's impossible for lamps to burn without oil in them. To truly live out the calling we received from God, we always need to be anointed by the Holy Spirit.

## #6 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

### 3. Lamp and Oil

The Holy Spirit begins to dwell in us when we believe in Jesus. But it's our job to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit so that He can work in us.

We can grieve the Holy Spirit who remains in us when we ignore Him. And if this continues, the Holy Spirit won't remain in us anymore.



So, we should ask God to reignite the fire of the Holy Spirit and to anoint us with His power.

The fire of the Holy Spirit, which started to work in us when we first believed in Jesus, can be extinguished if we constantly ignore Him.





## Memory Verses

“...Bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning... keep the lamps burning before the Lord...” (Ex 27:20-21) (1)

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – the Spirit of truth...” (Jn 14:15-17) (1)

“You have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth... the anointing you received from him remains in you... His anointing teaches you about all things...” (1 Jn 2:20, 27) (2)

“When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth... and he will tell you what is yet to come” (Jn 16:13) (1)

“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God... Do not quench the Spirit” (Eph 4:30, 1Th 5:19) (1)

## Reflection Questions

1) What do you think the lamps and the oil in the parable represent? What are the things that you think you need to prepare to welcome Jesus when He comes back?

2) Why do you think it is important for Christians to be filled with the Holy Spirit? What does He do? Have you experienced Him working in your life? What did He do and how did it change your life?