

Vessels of the Holy Spirit's Oil

Main Scripture

Matthew 25:3-4 *They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*

Main Points

1. There are key words in Matthew 25 that are clues for our readiness.
 - a. Virgins = The Church
 - b. Bridegroom = Jesus
 - c. Wise = Christ-followers who guard their faith and keep their light shining bright
 - d. Foolish = People in the Church who let their light for Christ go out, Mt. 25:12
 - e. Oil = the Holy Spirit
 - f. Slumbered & slept = the Church trudging along as always
 - g. Midnight = unexpected moment; perhaps symbolic of when the world is at its darkest
 - h. Trimmed their lamps = Enabling light to shine by removing old wick that won't absorb
 - i. Our lamps have gone out = Christians who didn't maintain faith-walking with God, 1 Jn 1
 - j. Give us of your oil = Christians depending on others for their closeness to God
 - k. While they went to buy = Last minute attempt to fill up on God
 - l. They that were ready = Not hands folded and waiting; watching but working
 - m. The marriage = The actual coming-together of Christ and His followers
 - n. The door was shut = No more access to eternity with God
 - o. I know you not = a complete break from relationship with Christ

2. The alarming message of Matthew 25 makes us anxious to know what oil means.
 - a. Jesus calls the Church candlesticks, Rev. 1:20, but with wicks & vessels, Ex. 30:27
 - b. The Church is symbolized by the seven-tubed, oil-filled menorah, Ex. 27:20-21
 - c. The oil sanctifies and makes holy, Ex. 30:25
 - d. The oil consecrates God's "priests", Ex. 30:30-33
 - e. The oil-ointment consecrated Aaron's whole body; it was complete, not partial, Ps. 133:2
 - f. Oil is the Holy Spirit, that anointed Jesus for a life of complete ministry, Lu. 4:18-19
 - g. The Holy Spirit is the oil of a Christian's lamp.

3. The oil of the Holy Spirit is firstly He Himself, then His fruit, then His organizing, and finally His gifts.
 - a. Jesus said the Holy Spirit was "with" the Disciples but would be "in" them, Jn. 14:17
 - b. When the Spirit was "with" the Disciples their faith and understanding was up and down
 - c. When the Spirit was "in" the Disciples they had powerful boldness for God and command of Scripture to explain the truth of Christ to all, Acts 1:8; 2:14-41
 - d. The Spirit grows "fruit" in the submissive Believer, Gal. 5:16-26
 - e. The Spirit sets up the government of the kingdom of God, 1 Cor. 12:3-7, Gifts, Administrations, and Operations, to profit all.
 - f. The Spirit bestows "gifts" severally to all Believers to equip them for ministries.
 - 1.) Words of wisdom
 - 2.) Words of knowledge
 - 3.) Pure Faith
 - 4.) Healing
 - 5.) Miracles
 - 6.) Prophecy
 - 7.) Discernment of spirits
 - 8.) Speaking various languages
 - 9.) Interpreting various languages