

**RCMI L-Path Teaching**  
July 17, 2022

**TITLE:** BETTER BE READY OR ELSE! [The Parable of the Ten Virgins]

[Kailangan Maging Handa Ka Kung Hindi!]

**TEXT:** Matthew 25: 1-13

**BI:** Faith is demonstrated in alert readiness for the Lord's unexpected return.

INTRO:

- In Matthew 24, Jesus tells them what will happen at the end of the age. He gives them the signs that will signify that his return is near. Jesus concluded all these predictions with this warning in v.44: ***"So you also must be ready because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him."***
- Jesus taught this parable in Matthew 25:1-13 to help us know what it means to be ready.
- The joyful anticipation of the Lord's return should motivate us to holy living.
- *"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming."*- 2 Peter 3: 11-12
- The Bible often uses the analogy that Jesus is the bridegroom and we, the church, are the bride. In Matthew 25, the wedding terminology pertained to an ancient Jewish wedding.
  - Betrothal [engagement]
  - Return of the Bridegroom for the Bride
  - Wedding Banquet [7 days]
  - The period between the betrothal to the wedding banquet is about a year.
- *We are living now in **the betrothal period.*** With His blood that was shed on the cross, Jesus purchased us from sin and death because He loves us.
- But now what? The bridegroom is coming again for His bride. And the **return of the bridegroom symbolizes the rapture of the church.** [1 Thess. 4: 16-17]
- Revelation 19 also tells us that **when He establishes His kingdom and returns, He will have a wedding banquet** -- the culmination of the whole marriage.
- The parable talks about Jesus' imminent return and that we should be ready. But when He starts to preach, He says something tragic: **out of the ten bridesmaids or virgins, only five are wise, and the rest are foolish.**
- *Jesus is painting the idea that some Christians are ready, and some are not because they are not true Christians.* That is the sobering truth of this parable.

**I. GENUINE FAITH IS BASED ON DEVOTION, NOT ASSOCIATION.** [vv.3-4]

[Ang Tunay Na Pananampalataya Ay Nakabatay Sa Debosyon, Hindi Sa Samahan.]

- A counterfeit Christian is a hypocrite that isn't himself on Sunday. A fake Christian has God on his tongue but the world in his heart.

#### A. **It's What's inside the Lamp That Matters Most**

- What is interesting about this story is that all the virgins took their lamps to meet the bridegroom. If you looked at these virgins, they all looked the same. You would have assumed they were prepared for the arrival of the bridegroom. However, as you see, having a lamp was not enough. With no oil, the lamp was virtually useless.
- In the Bible, oil represents the, so the question of fundamental importance is, are you full of the Holy Spirit? [Romans 8:9]
- If the Spirit of God does not dwell within you, you do not belong to God. The good news is that the Holy Spirit came to reside in your heart when God saved you.
- However, the next step after receiving the Holy Spirit at salvation is constantly being filled with the Spirit. [Ephesians 5:18]
- One way of thinking about this verse is that you need to constantly yield more and more of your life to the Holy Spirit. This requires consistent times of prayer and worship so God can renew, refill, and strengthen your heart. This will give you the oil to help your light shine bright in this world.

#### B. **You Need Oil to Be Ready for His Coming**

- As we mentioned, the most significant part of being prepared is being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- The ones who took extra oil were prepared and ready for his coming. Those who didn't were not. Unfortunately, many will look prepared because they have lamps, but they won't be prepared because they have no oil.

## II. A 'NO SHARING' POLICY IS ENFORCED WHEN IT COMES TO FAITH. [vv. 8-9]

[Isang 'No Sharing' Policy Ang Pinatutupad Pagdating Sa Pananampalataya]

- What does Jesus say, 'buy oil for yourself?' **Can faith be purchased or acquired? No.**
- He illustrates that people sometimes turn to others for their faith. Instead of walking for themselves, they look to friends, parents, and partners. But you can't get it from them!
- It can't be borrowed from somebody! You must have a personal relationship with Jesus.
- You can't borrow their oil because you must own it for yourself. If you want to be ready for Christ's return, don't hang on someone else's skirt, thinking that you get to enter heaven by holding on to her.

### **III. LATE APPEAL WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED ONCE THE DOOR IS SHUT. [vv. 10-12] [Ang Huling Pagsusumamo Ay Hindi Pakikinggan Kapag Nasara Na Ang Pintuan.]**

- **A time will come when the door is shut. The moment the door is closed, that's it!**

#### **A. Preparation Happens before You Die**

- I hope you recognize from the parable of the ten virgins that your eternal destination is determined by what you do now. Once you die or fall asleep, it is too late. Your eternity is sealed. Remember those who were ready went into the banquet, and the door was shut.

#### **B. The Greatest Question in Life**

- One of the most stunning statements in this story is in verse 12. ***“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’”***
- I believe the most crucial question in life is not, do you know Jesus? The most critical question in life is, does Jesus know you? Being known by Jesus have nothing to do with your deeds or actions. Being known by Jesus means putting your trust in him as Savior and Lord.
- If Jesus is your Savior, you are known by him today. This is the hope and confidence we have in him.

#### **CHALLENGE:**

- “When He returns is not as important as the fact that we are ready for Him when He does return.” — A.W. Tozer, *Preparing for Jesus' Return: Daily Live the Blessed Hope*
- The parable of the ten virgins is a wake-up call. First to those who don't know Jesus, but I think it goes beyond that. Remember, the virgins did have lamps. I believe this is a real wake-up call to those who may go to church but are not walking with God. In other words, those who have empty lamps.
- The urgency of this story cannot be taken lightly. The parable of 10 virgins is about preparation and readiness. That preparation begins now.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

- What have you learned from the parable of the ten virgins?
- What do you mean by having oil in the lamp? Do you have it?
- Are you ready to meet the Lord at any moment now? Share.

#### **ASSIGNMENT:**

- Join us in our prayer and fasting this week [July 18-23] and endeavor to be filled by the Holy Spirit.