

Audio Teaching Sermon

Message #40

Are You Foolish or Wise?

[**A** Intro – Pastor Jefferson 0:00 thru 1:27]

Welcome back everybody. You are listening to the **Audio Teaching Sermon Series Message #40**. Pastor Jefferson here with you today and I will be continuing with our discussion regarding the **ten virgins**, as mentioned by Jesus in **Matthew 25:1**. Recall that the **10 virgins** represent the true followers of **Christ**, with the number 10 holding the significance that these virgins represent His complete true church at the time approaching the **End of the Age** of Adam. Each virgin is holding a lamp, representing their accumulation of Holy Spirit driven knowledge, as taught by Jesus Himself. Remember, the virgins each took firm hold of the true knowledge of Scripture and exercised their free will to leave the congregation wherever they were, making a conscious choice to pursue the unfiltered meaning of God's Word, which is the equivalent of going out and meeting the bridegroom, who we know is Jesus. This decision on their part was made via a firm resolution to seek the Truth directly and can be seen as a departure from the usual crowd that fills the pews on Sunday morning. The Bible teaches the Truth is the person of Jesus.

[**B** How Many False Words are Required? 1:27 thru 2:47]

This exodus or withdrawal can be viewed as an escape from the constraints of exposure to false preachers whose sermons are filled with Christian Mythology. Recall in **Luke 11:46**, where Jesus said the clergy of His time sought to bind the people with heavy burdens. Also recall from **Matthew 24** where Jesus said it would be the same in the time nearing His return when many false teachers would arise in that period. Which brings me to a point. *"How many false words does a pastor need to preach in order to have God deem them to be a false preacher?"* When we examined the story of Cain bringing his offering before the LORD, we are never told why it was not acceptable to Yahweh, only that it was. Abel took the time and went through all the right motions, and his offering was accepted. I feel quite certain that Cain attempted to replicate what Abel did. But Cain was unsuccessful, and his offering was rejected by Yahweh. Cain's failure was not found in the offering itself.

[**C** Reflecting the Right Attitude 2:47 thru 3:55]

I've heard it said, Cain's offering was rejected because it lacked the characteristic of

being an animal or blood sacrifice. The fact remains that it was not because his offering was fruit or grain, that being defined as produce from the ground. The Hebrew Temple regularly took in crops as grain offerings, so that is not a true statement. Back in **Sermon #33**, we showed the word used in **Genesis 4:5**, telling us God did not respect Cain's offering was [1] *sha-AH*, which translates '**to gaze at without respect, to not have regard for or to fail to look upon with favor.**' It was not *what* Cain brought before the LORD, but rather *how* he delivered it. There was something with his attitude which demonstrated a lack of respect being displayed before the LORD. That's why Cain's offering was not looked upon with favor. Cain was somehow in non-compliance.

[**D** Foolish Means Mentally Inert 3:55 thru 5:21]

With that thought in mind, now go and open up your Bible to **Matthew 25:2**. It reads from the Greek, ¹ "Now five of them were foolish ² and five wise." The verse is still speaking of the **10 virgins**. The word used for **five** is *PEN-teh* and means '**the numerical value of five.**' It is seen in both thoughts of the verse and reflects the completeness of the division of halves. The word we see for **foolish** in T-1 is [3] *mor-RYE*. The word translates to '**dull, stupid or absurd.**' It is where we get our words "moron" and "moronic" from. This word is seen 3 times in Scripture and each time it is associated with these same **foolish virgins**. In this case, God is telling us these persons are **mentally inert**, as dull in understanding. They lack having a firm grip on the reality of their situation. This word describes people who are spiritually deficient, lacking Godly insight and prudence. The original use of the word **moron** was a medical term used '**to describe the mental state of an individual exhibiting a lack of good sense, judgment or discernment.**'

[**E** Being Wise is Sagacious 5:21 thru 7:06]

I submit to you that I would describe anyone who enrolls in a discipleship training program and who then doesn't apply themselves to finish the course as exhibiting absurd behavior. By willingly allowing themselves to fall short of the goal of obtaining eternal salvation, they then fit firmly into the Biblical definition of being a **foolish virgin**. Stop for a moment and consider—these virgins, having witnessed the false teaching taking place within their previous congregations, elected to abandon those flocks for the purpose of escaping an environment filled with the preaching of **Christian mythology**. Only to what? Take a detour or pause from along the path leading to **holiness**? I ask, for what possible

reason could there be?!!! The truth is there are as many reasons as there are people. I'm sure Cain offered his excuses before the **LORD** to justify his rejected offering. Look now at the word in T-2 for **wise**. The word we see here is **FRO-nee-moi** and it translates to **'prudent, intelligent and sensible.'** The *Greek* dictionary uses the word **sagacious**, which means **'having keen and farsighted perception.'** Such people are the ones who exhibit a level of acute discernment. Today we'd describe such folks as being *incredibly savvy*. They are the ones who see the world for how it really is.

[**F** **Didn't Pack Sufficient Olive Oil** **7:06 thru 8:47**]

This is how **Jesus** describes the **5 wise virgins** in **Matthew**, who manage to stay the course in a very turbulent time. Look now at **Matthew 25:3**. It reads, ¹ *"When the foolish took their lamps,* ² *they didn't obtain sufficient olive oil to bring with them."* In T-1 we see the foolish virgins took their lamps with them to go and prepare to meet the bridegroom. We see the 2nd use of the Greek word **took** here, [2] **lab-BOO-say-eye**, meaning **'to take an active and firm grip on the lamp'** as we discussed in the last message. This is another way of saying they had enough spiritual knowledge to know that the bridegroom was indeed coming. It also means they knew the lamps were required in order to be able to meet and properly greet the bridegroom. They had that much going for them. We read the bad news in T-2: The foolish virgins didn't obtain sufficient olive oil to bring along with them. The word for **obtain sufficient** is **el-lah-BON** and means **'to receive, to firmly take or to lay hold of.'** This word is related to the word I just mentioned, [2] **lab-BOO-say-eye**, as it shares the same root. So, while the foolish virgins have some oil in their lamps, **Jesus** is telling us in the parable that they didn't bring enough. This explains why they are being described as *"foolish."*

[**G** **Extra Olive Oil from the Olive Tree** **8:47 thru 10:32**]

Look now at **verse 4**: ¹ *"But the wise (virgins) took extra olive oil* ² *in the vessels* ³ *along with their lamps."* The word we see for **olive oil** in T-1 is [6] **EH-lah-ee-yon** and it translates to mean **'olive oil from the olive tree.'** This word is used 6 times and is discussing the same kind of oil each time. There was no wide scale use of petroleum products back then. And while there were other sources of oil in ancient times, the Bible here is speaking specifically of **olive oil**. *Figuratively*, **olive oil** always stands for the indwelling of the **Holy Spirit**. The **olive tree** represents the nation of **Israel**, which bore

Jesus Christ, the **Messiah**. We know this particular oil was extra, as we see in **T-2** that it was not contained within the lamps, but rather in an *additional vessel*. The word we see here for **vessel** is [1] *an-GEH-ee-ois* and it means ‘**a jar, a container or a flask.**’ And we read in **T-3**, that this flask was brought in addition to the oil as contained within their lamps. Keep in mind, Jesus is using a parable and the associated symbolic language to convey critical concepts. As such, Christians do not possess nor require an extra vessel containing oil. The extra vessel being mentioned is a fictitious part of the story.

[**H** Proper Preparation is the Key 10:32 thru 11:59]

All of our learning and knowledge is contained within the symbolic lamp holding the olive oil provided to us by the Holy Spirit. The total fits easily within the confines of our mind. We don’t receive a bigger brain or anything like that. The point to be taken can be made with a simple question: “*When you pack for a distant and lengthy trip, do you begin loading your suitcase within the last few minutes before leaving the house?* If you do, you likely risk not bringing many of the more critical items needed on the vacation. Or when preparing to attend a most important meeting, do you leave for the appointment at the last possible second? I asked a similar question back in **message #38**, about missing a train, a plane or a bus. Whose fault does the improper preparation lie with? I like to equate **Discipleship Training 101** with a college level course. How does one best make ready for taking the final exam? Do you put in the extra time in careful study and review, safeguarding the fact that you have indeed mastered the material? Or do you just walk into the exam, blindly relying on the material as it was presented in the classroom?

[**I** Waiting for Jesus will be Agonizing 11:59 thru 13:32]

With something as important as our eternal salvation, one would think that those studying the Gospel would leave *nothing* to chance. This would especially be true when facing the end of the age during the middle of the **Tribulation**—when sufficient prophetic Scripture had been fulfilled to remove 100% of the doubt about where one was on the prophetic timescale. Look now at **verse 5**, where Jesus says in the **NASB**, ¹ “*Now while the bridegroom was delayed,* ² *they all got drowsy* ³ *and began to sleep.*” I chose to use this common translation as this original verse is composed of **3 words** used only one time in Scripture. You will within a few moments see the dramatic change in meaning once we break those 3 *Greek* words down. In **T-1** we see the words **was** **delayed**. The

single use of the *Greek* word is [1] **chron-IS-zone-tos** and means **‘to delay for a long time, or to linger for a prolonged while.’** The *Greek* dictionary uses the word **tarry**, in place of **was delayed**, which isn’t really used anymore. But the word **linger** means **‘to have a period of time pass very slowly.’** The one-time use of this word is telling us that in the minds of the waiting virgins, the time spent waiting for the Savior is agonizingly slow.

[J **Drowsy Means to be Caught Napping** 13:32 thru 14:55]

In T-2 we see the words **they all got drowsy**. In the *Greek* we see just one word [1] **en-ee-STAX-an** and here it literally means **‘to be caught napping.’** The meaning of this word is the equivalent to being *careless* and *negligent*. **Negligent** is defined to mean **‘failure to exercise the care expected of a reasonably prudent person in like circumstances.’** Folks, Jesus is describing the crème-de-la-crème of His church here. The sensation that time is passing more or less quickly, depends on the context and our emotional state. We find that time passes slowly when we are **bored** or **sad**, and quickly when we are **happy** or doing something we **enjoy** or find interesting. We don’t have much to compare this time of **Matthew 24** with our current experiences. Perhaps the closest event I have been witness to was when **COVID-19** was raging. Jesus is speaking here of His disciples being negligent with their training and building a relationship with Him. They are instead focused on all the rumors of this and that happening, then they are with focusing on doing Yahweh’s work.

[K **A Parable is a Prophetic Warning** 14:55 thru 16:41]

It seems the church, as a whole, will be ignoring **Hebrews 12:2**, where we are advised to, **“Keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.”** We know this is going to be true based on what we find in T-3. The Bible says, **“they began to sleep.”** The *Greek* word for **began to sleep** is [1] **ek-ath-YOU-don** is used only once and the minority of the definition of the word translates **‘to yield to sloth and sin, and to become indifferent to one’s salvation.’** Can you see how these 3 words all compliment each other in their associated definitions? Here is where God’s selection of languages having a large vocabulary helps us see what Jesus is attempting to teach us. Let’s now rewrite **verse 5** using our new-found definitions: ¹ **“Now while waiting for the bridegroom was boring and agonizingly slow,** ² **the virgins all became complacent, neglecting their relationship with Jesus** ³ **and began to yield to sloth and sin, exhibiting**

indifference to their salvation.” Wow! What an indirect rebuke! But folks, this prophetic warning is in reality no different than what God told to Cain. It was Cain’s indifference which caused Yahweh to reject his offering. When we treat or take Jesus lightly, we are committing the same sin.

[**L** Life Being Elevated is the Rapture 16:41 thru 18:09]

Do you happen to see the similarity between the details of Cain and Abel and the ten virgins? One half of the two brothers, Abel, brought an acceptable offering before the LORD. **Abel** is representative of the five **wise virgins**. He did what God required. The other brother, **Cain**, represents the five **foolish virgins**, who as you will soon see, fail to do what God requires. Cain was warned when God said, *“Hey, don’t you know that doing right will result in your life being elevated and you being exalted in My eyes?”* Jesus, via the parable is telling the believers entering the final years of the age of Adam the same exact thing. Their life being elevated is another prophecy for the **Rapture**, just like with the ascension of Jesus 40 days after His resurrection from the dead. Those members of the true church, as represented by the 5 wise virgins will be taken upward to Heaven 40 days after the Antichrist fakes his own resurrection from the dead. These virgins will be taken because by their discipleship they will have been exalted in the eyes of Yahweh, our Heavenly Father. *“So, what is then required of those 5 foolish virgins, which they didn’t do?”*

[**Z** Some Final Thoughts 18:09 thru 19:29]

The purpose of these audio sermons is where you can find the answer to that question. Our offering we bring before God the Father is our sincerely driven effort to establish a firm and intimate friendship with His Son, **Jesus Christ**. Failing our success in doing that, our offering if you will, will indeed be rejected. There is no other way. Now, I’ve made available on the **DWJDministries.com** website **volume 1**, containing the transcripts of the **1st 30 audio sermons**. I’ve also included a summary sheet showing all the verses, the Greek and Hebrew words used, along with their definitions. It is an excellent study guide for each teaching sermon. Order yours today. The price reflects everything including shipping right to your door. We will continue this discussion in the next sermon. **So, until next time my beloved, this has been Pastor Jefferson, speaking in God’s Holy name and for His glory alone. Amen!**