

Lesson II.

THE TEN VIRGINS

October 14, 1906

Matthew 25: 1-13. Commit to memory vs. 1, 2. Read Matthew 24: 1-51.

GOLDEN TEXT—Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.—Matthew 25: 13.

1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

2 And five of them were ¹wise, and five were ²foolish.

3 ³They that were foolish took their lamps, ⁴and took no oil with them:

4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5 ⁵While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

6 ⁶And at midnight there ⁷was a cry ⁸made, Behold, the bridegroom ⁹cometh; ¹⁰go ye out to meet him.

7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

Revised Version—¹ foolish; ² wise; ³ For the foolish, when they took; ⁴ Omit and; ⁵ Now; ⁶ But; ⁷ is; ⁸ Omit made; ⁹ Omit cometh; ¹⁰ Come ye forth; ¹¹ going; ¹² Peradventure there will not be enough; ¹³ Omit but; ¹⁴ away; ¹⁵ feast; ¹⁶ come; ¹⁷ not; ¹⁸ Omit rest of sentence.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Waiting, 1-5.

II. The Summons, 6-9.

III. The Separation, 10-13.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—The ten virgins, Matt. 25: 1-13. T.—Coming of the Son of man, Matt. 24: 23-31. W.—The closed door, Luke 13: 24-30. Th.—“I know you not,” Matt. 7: 15-23. F.—Be ye ready! Matt. 24: 36-44. S.—“The day of God,” 2 Peter 3: 8-14. S.—Watch! 1 Thess. 5: 4-11.

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—Tuesday, April 4, A.D. 30; Mount of Olives.

Connecting Links—After the visit of the Greeks and the discourse following (John 12: 20-38), Jesus went out with His disciples to the Mount of Olives, on the east of Jerusalem. Sitting here, He warns the disciples that the fall of Jerusalem is not far distant, and that they will have to endure great suffering; but He also promises them that He will return. He gives them no definite time for these events, since He desires that they should always be watchful. (See ch. 24.) To illustrate this principle He puts forth the parable of the Lesson.

I. The Waiting, 1-5.

V. 1. Then; at the last day (see ch. 24: 36, 42), when Jesus shall come to judge the world, vs. 31-33. *Kingdom of heaven.. likened.* The whole story of these virgins illustrates truth in regard to the kingdom of heaven. *Ten virgins*; ten maidens, friends of the bride and bridegroom. *Took.. lamps.* These were “small and flat, shaped like a gravity-boat prolonged somewhat at the end,

8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are ¹¹gone out.

9 But the wise answered, saying, ¹²Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you; ¹³but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

10 And while they went ¹⁴to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage ¹⁵; and the door was shut.

11 Afterward ¹⁶came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

13 Watch, therefore, for ye know ¹⁷neither the day nor the hour ¹⁸wherein the Son of man cometh.

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 31. What is effectual calling?* A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the Gospel.

The Question on Missions—38. What were Dr. Mackay's methods of work? He healed the sick, and preached and sang the gospel. From the earliest converts he selected and trained native helpers, who went everywhere with him preaching.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 389 (from Supplemental Lesson); 83; 312; 86 (Ps. Sel.); 248 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 247.

where was a hole from which protruded a wick, and at the other end was the handle by which the lamp was carried. It was filled from a hole in the top.” (See Illustration in HOME STUDY QUARTERLY.) *To meet the bridegroom.* As very often, the completion of the kingdom is likened to a banquet, the marriage supper of the Lamb (see Rev. 19: 9). The wedding was evidently to be at the home of the bride, from which the virgins “went forth” to do honor to the bridegroom by accompanying him in festal procession at night to the gaily lighted house.

Vs. 2-4. *Five.. wise, and five.. foolish.* Many followed Jesus, who had not first sat down to count the cost. They did not listen to Him when He warned them that there were long hours ahead of them requiring perseverance, and times when they would need to be ready for opportunity. *Foolish.. took no oil.* This was great carelessness, seeing that the lamps held only a small quantity of oil. *Wise took oil*; making full preparation for possible delay.

V. 5. *The bridegroom tarried*; on the way