



Is Oil Really Important?

Matthew 25:8-9: (NKJV) *"⁸And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'"*



Mention oil and you probably get a reaction. In our world, oil is one of those commodities that drive our society - its price and availability can have a great impact on how we live our lives. Our subject is oil - but not in the sense that you may think. No, rather than dealing with the "crude" kind, we are going to talk about a much more refined kind - the kind you would have put in a lamp in ancient days. In Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish virgins, oil plays a key role. So, what does it represent? How does it project our being "wise" or "foolish?"

Questions for consideration:

1. Why did Jesus teach this particular parable?
2. What did the symbols of the parable represent?
3. What is the bottom line difference between the "wise" and the "foolish"?

1. Why did Jesus teach this particular parable?

Matthew 25:1-13: (NKJV) *"¹Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' ⁷Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' ¹²But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."*

This parable comes on the heels of Jesus' Great Prophecy - Matthew 24.

In it, Jesus answers three questions posed to him by his Disciples:

Matthew 24:1-3: (NKJV) *"¹Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. ²And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." ³Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*

He is talking about the destruction of the Temple. The first question they have for him is: when will this destruction take place? The second question is: what will be the sign of your coming? (Note, this word actually means "presence" or "alongside of" in the Greek.) The third question they ask is: what will be the sign of the end of the age?



His followers wanted to know about extraordinary future events, and these are important questions. Jesus obliged them by giving the complex prophecy in Matthew 24.

Interestingly, Jesus himself did not know all the details of these future events. Jesus is telling them about what he knows, which was very difficult for them to grasp.

Through prophecy, Jesus knew there would be a long time until some of these things would happen:

Mark 13:32: (NIV) *"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."*

Habakkuk 2:1-3: (NKJV) *"¹I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected. ²Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. ³For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."*

The Habakkuk quote is a prophecy of Christians being able to understand the chain of events that happened bringing us to the time of Jesus' return. The thought in the Hebrew is: though it will take a long time, wait for it, because it will not be delayed. Be patient, it will be right on time - even though it will seem too long for us!

From the perspective of Jesus dealing with his followers at that time, here are men that have dedicated their lives to him. They are learning from him on an everyday basis and now he is going to be leaving. He knows that they need deep encouragement to carry them through.

He spent a lot of time assuring them he would be coming back.

John 14:1:3: (NKJV) *"¹Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*

What they didn't understand was the difficulty, stress and pressure they would be under during Jesus' absence. Jesus is telling his followers that they need to be prepared for his absence. It would be longer than they would want it to be, so he was giving them these words to encourage them.

The complexity of future events surrounding his return - combined with the many years before their fulfillment - gave cause for Jesus to teach this parable. It would help prepare his followers and their followers for the long journey as they awaited his return. They would be waiting a long time.

Why was the return so veiled? From whom was God protecting that information?

Matthew 24:42-44: (NKJV) *"⁴²Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*



Satan! In this parable, Satan is the master of the house and Jesus is the thief. This sounds backwards, but whose world is this? Satan is the prince of this world, and Jesus comes to take it from him. God veils the time of his return so that Satan doesn't know when it will be.

Jesus kept the urgency for his followers. Telling them it was coming 2,000 years later would have discouraged them, and they would have given up.

Jesus begins this parable as he began so many others:

Matthew 25:1: (NKJV) *"¹Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to..."*

What does he mean by "the Kingdom of Heaven" or in some cases "the Kingdom of God?"

First, the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God are the same. He uses both phrases in this verse:

Mathew 19:23-24: (KJV) *"²³Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."*

Second, the Kingdom of Heaven/God has revealed itself already:

Matthew 4:17: (ASV) *"¹⁷From that time began Jesus to preach, and to say, Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Luke 17:20-21: (NRSV) *"²⁰Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, 'The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; ²¹nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you."*

Third, the Kingdom of Heaven/God is not a finished product, but in fact it is a project under construction:

Matthew 13:24-26: (NKJV) *"²⁴Another parable He put forth to them, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. ²⁶But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared."*

The Kingdom of Heaven is like this man that sowed good seed but there was also bad seed planted. There is trouble!

Matthew 13:31-33: (NKJV) *"³¹Another parable He put forth to them, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, ³²which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.' ³³Another parable He spoke to them: 'The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."*

Symbolically, birds in parables represent unclean things - that's trouble! In the other parable, leaven represents sin, which is something that needs to be cleaned out from your household. There is difficulty surrounding this Kingdom of Heaven.



So, when Jesus says “the Kingdom of God (Heaven) is like” in his parables, he seems to be saying something like: “The Kingdom of Heaven is the context of difficulty in which my true followers are to be developing their characters to be like mine and their lives to be lives of sacrifice like mine.”

Observations so far:



- This parable was to alert Jesus’ followers to the long wait ahead of them, to teach them to be patient.
- It was pointing towards his return.
- It was focusing them on being faithful in uncertainty.
- It was showing them (as all his parables did) about their necessary growth - they had to change and grow up spiritually.

2. What did the symbols of the parable represent?

There are four primary symbols:

- 1: Ten Virgins (true followers of Christ)
- 2: Bridegroom (Jesus)
- 3: Lamps (God’s holy word to mankind - the Bible)
- 4: Oil (Holy Spirit - the influence of God)

■ 1: Ten Virgins

2 Corinthians 11:1-4: (NKJV) *“¹Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. ²For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. ³But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!”*

The Apostle Paul was concerned about the Christians in Corinth, because they were wavering with all sorts of issues.

A virgin was to be chaste and betrothed to Christ.

Romans 7:4: (NKJV) *“⁴Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.”*

Ephesians 5:27: (NKJV) *“²⁷that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”*

The ten virgins would then represent the true followers of Christ. The scriptures above round it out for us.

A comment about the number “10:” (Source: Matthew Henry’s Commentary)

It was a custom sometimes used among the Jews on that occasion, that the bridegroom came, attended with his friends, late in the night, to the house of the bride, where she expected him, attended with her bride-maids; who, upon notice given of the bridegrooms’ approach, were to go out with lamps in their hands, to light him into the house with ceremony and formality, in order to the celebrating of the nuptials with great mirth. And some think that on these occasions they had usually ten virgins; for the Jews never held a synagogue, circumcised, kept the Passover, or



contracted marriage, but ten persons at least were present. Boaz, when he married Ruth, had ten witnesses, Ruth 4:2.

Ten is a symbol of completeness. Jesus uses the number ten probably because his listeners would be familiar with the use of ten.

2: Bridegroom

2 Corinthians 11:2: (NKJV) *"²For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."*

Revelation 19:7: *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready."*

Revelation 19:9: *"And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."*

Jesus is the bridegroom.

3: Lamps

Source: www.victorie-inc.us/oil_lamps.html



Herodian Oil Lamp 50 BC to AD 50

This type of oil lamp was common in Judea during the ministry of Jesus. Known as the *Herodian* because of its widespread use during the reign of Herod the Great in Israel. This lamp was wheel-made with the spout applied by hand.

a light to my path."

Psalms 119:105: (NKJV) *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and*

Psalms 43:3: *"O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles."*

John 17:17: (NKJV) *"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."*

Proverbs 6:23: *"For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:"*

2 Peter 1:19-21: (NKJV) *"¹⁹And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."*

The prophetic word is something that is sacred and is a light that shines in a dark place.

Each of the ten virgins had a lamp in their hands, so the true followers of Christ have the word of God, which is the light that lights their way. It is a wonderful picture that each of us is given the opportunity to have the Book to show us how to live our lives and teach us what things are important.








4: Oil

Let's go through the parable again:

Matthew 25:3-10: (NRSV) *"³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut."*



So, what did the possession of this oil do for the bridesmaids?

-  Helped them see
-  Helped them to be seen
-  Gave them staying power
-  Showed preparedness and foresight - they were ready!
-  Gave them entrance into the banquet

Psalms 45:7: (NKJV) *"⁷You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than your companions."*

When you anoint somebody with oil, the oil is poured over their head and covers them.

Back in the Old Testament, anointing oil had a very sacred significance:

Exodus 30:25-32: (NRSV) *"²⁵and you shall make of these a sacred anointing oil blended as by the perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil. ²⁶With it you shall anoint the tent of meeting and the ark of the covenant, ²⁷and the table and all its utensils, and the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense, ²⁸and the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the basin with its stand; ²⁹you shall consecrate them, so that they may be most holy; whatever touches them will become holy. ³⁰You shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, in order that they may serve me as priests. ³¹You shall say to the Israelites, 'This shall be my holy anointing oil throughout your generations. ³²It shall not be used in any ordinary anointing of the body, and you shall make no other like it in composition; it is holy, and it shall be holy to you.'"*

The anointing oil in the Old Testament was very different from other oils. They were to anoint the Tabernacle furniture and utensils; then individuals were anointed to consecrate them to serve God. It set them apart.

There are two distinctions that separated the priesthood from the people, and these are the same two distinctions that separate true Christians from the world:

1. Sanctification - to set apart for holy service

1 Thessalonians 5:23: (NRSV) *"May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

1 Peter 3:15: (NRSV) *"but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;"*



The anointing is carried over from the Old Testament to the New Testament. It uses the symbol to help the Christians.

2. The Anointing of the priesthood

1 John 2:27: (NRSV) *"As for you, the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and so you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, abide in him."*

1 Peter 2:9-10: (NRSV) *"⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."*

The true followers of Christ are a priesthood set apart by the anointing oil of the Spirit.

3. What is the bottom line difference between the "wise" and the "foolish?"

Matthew 25:1-13: (NKJV) *"¹Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. (All had the same standing, and the same outward advantages) ²Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish."*

Wise: Strongs #5429 phronimos (fron'-ee-mos); thoughtful or discreet (implying a cautious character)

Some Uses:

Matthew 7:24: *"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise [5429](#) man, which built his house upon a rock:"*

Matthew 10:16: *"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise [5429](#) as serpents, and harmless as doves."*

(So be wise and apply the things you have been taught, because you are going to be in an environment that is difficult.)

Foolish: Strongs #3474 moros (mo-ros'); dull or stupid (as if shut up), heedless, (morally) blockhead, (apparently) absurd

Some Uses:

Matthew 5:22: *"But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool [3474](#), shall be in danger of hell fire (gehenna, a symbol of utter destruction)."*

1 Corinthians 1:27: *"But God hath chosen the foolish things [3474](#) of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;"*

Titus 3:9: *"But avoid foolish [3474](#) questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain."*

In the parable, Jesus is drawing a striking difference in the two groups that were part of the same group - they had the same advantage, the same invitation, they were in the same place and had the same opportunity, they had the same lamps. Some were wise, some were foolish.



Let's take another look at our theme text:

Matthew 25:1-13: (NKJV) *"¹Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' ⁷Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' ¹²But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."*

Each was prepared, but one group was far more prepared than the other.

Let's look at more differences between wise and foolish:

Proverbs 15:5-9: (NRSV) *"⁵A fool despises a parent's instruction, but the one who heeds admonition is prudent. ⁶In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but trouble befalls the income of the wicked. ⁷The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the minds of fools. ⁸The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is his delight. ⁹The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but he loves the one who pursues righteousness."*

1 Corinthians 1:20-29: (NRSV) *"²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God."*

Worldly wisdom doesn't cut it in terms of spiritual matters. We need the humility to accept God's wisdom.

Wisdom is expressed through:

GODLINESS
FORESIGHT
HUMILITY
PATIENCE



Let's continue with our theme text:

Matthew 25:1-13: (NKJV) *"¹Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,*



⁴but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶"And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the Bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'" ⁷Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. ¹¹"Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'" ¹²But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

Here is the defining moment in the parable. At midnight, a cry was heard that the bridegroom arrived. Remember, this was a parable Jesus gave his followers to prepare them for his absence and then his return. Interesting point - the cry goes out amongst those who are waiting - only the virgins, not the whole world. This is the moment they anticipated and waited for, but not all were ready!

1 Corinthians 3:13-15: (NRSV) ¹³"the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. ¹⁴ If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire."

This is a scathing description of a separation. The preparation of each of these virgins is disclosed. There is a stark comparison revealed between the wise and the foolish.

Foolishness is expressed through:



PRIDE
CARELESSNESS
SHORTSIGHTEDNESS
HUMAN-MINDEDNESS (focusing on things less important)

Matthew 25:1-13: (NKJV) ¹"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶"And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'" ⁷Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. ¹¹"Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'" ¹²But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

They disappointed their calling. There was a **SERIOUS CONSEQUENCE** for not being prepared. It is as if the foolish virgins had other things on their minds - as if they were too busy or too preoccupied with "stuff" to entirely ready themselves for the task at hand. They were to be a part of this important occasion of the bridegroom coming and the door was shut.

Matthew 6:19-23: (NRSV) ¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves



treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²²"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; ²³but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"

Jesus is admonishing us not to store up things on earth that can be destroyed. Instead, think about things that are spiritually important, like the wise virgins who were prepared.

In spite of having been told many times that Jesus' return would be a long way off, his disciples were still looking for the quick establishment of the Kingdom:

Acts 1:6-7: (NKJV) *"Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority."*

Jesus continually prepared them on all levels to be faithful:

Luke 12:32-40: (NKJV) *"³²"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ³⁵"Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; ³⁶and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. ³⁸And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. ³⁹But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*

Some final "words to the wise"...

Matthew 7:24-27: (NKJV) *"²⁴Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."*

The wise Christian hears, thinks, comprehends, plans and then acts. Then - and only then - is he or she faithful.

**So is Oil Really Important?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**

