

# The Parable of the Ten Virgins – Part 1

Lesson • 16: (Mt. 25:1-13; GC 393-403; COL 405-421)

In this lesson we will study the parable of the Ten Virgins. A careful analysis of this story within the framework of history, indicates that it has already met a partial fulfillment in the Millerite Movement of 1843-1844 (please study GC 391-408 to prepare the present lesson). Yet the Millerite Movement did not exhaust its meaning. As we shall see in our next lesson, it will meet its greatest fulfillment with the remnant people who will live upon the earth shortly before the second coming of Jesus. Let's begin our study by decoding the meaning of some of the symbols of the parable.

## Decoding the Key Symbols

1. What indication do we have that the parable of the ten virgins must be studied within the context of the second coming of Christ? “\_\_\_\_\_ shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins.”

**Note:** The word “then” in Matthew 25:1 is a temporal one. It links the parable of the ten virgins with the immediately preceding context and the immediately preceding context is dealing with the second coming of Jesus.

2. What is represented by the lamps in the parable of the ten virgins? “Thy word is a \_\_\_\_\_ unto my feet and a \_\_\_\_\_ unto my path.” (Psalm 119:105)
3. What is symbolized by the ten virgins? “For I am jealous over you [the Corinthian church] with godly jealousy: for I have \_\_\_\_\_ you to one \_\_\_\_\_, that I may present you as a chaste \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ.” (II Corinthians 11:2)
4. What does the symbol of oil represent? “Not by might, nor by power, but by my \_\_\_\_\_ saith the Lord.” (Zachariah 4:6)

## Going Forth to Meet the Bridegroom

1. What is illustrated by the story of the **ten virgins**? “The parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25 also illustrates the experience of the \_\_\_\_\_ people.” (GC 393)
2. What was represented by the **coming of the bridegroom**? “The coming of \_\_\_\_\_, as announced by the first angel's message, was understood to be represented by the coming of the bridegroom.” (GC 393-394)
3. What is represented by the virgins “**going forth**” to meet the bridegroom? “The widespread \_\_\_\_\_ under the proclamation of His \_\_\_\_\_ coming, answered to the going forth of the virgins.” (GC 394)

4. What is symbolized by the virgins **taking their lamps**? “All had taken their lamps, the \_\_\_\_\_, and by its light had gone forth to \_\_\_\_\_ the bridegroom.” (GC 394)

**Note:** All the Millerites had the Bible and claimed to believe its promises of a soon coming Savior. But most of them had a merely theoretical knowledge of the Bible and not a deep personal experience with Jesus.

### **Wise and Foolish Millerites**

5. What type of religious experience did the **wise Millerites** have? They “ had received the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, the regenerating, enlightening power of the Holy Spirit, which renders His word a lamp to the feet and a light to the path. In the fear of God they had studied the Scriptures to learn the truth, and had earnestly sought for \_\_\_\_\_ of heart and life. These had a \_\_\_\_\_ experience, a faith in God and in His word, which could not be overthrown by \_\_\_\_\_ and delay.” (GC 394)
6. In contrast, what type of religious experience did the **foolish Millerites** have? “They had moved from \_\_\_\_\_. Their fears had been excited by the solemn message, but they had depended upon the faith of their \_\_\_\_\_, satisfied with the flickering light of good \_\_\_\_\_, without a thorough understanding of the truth or a genuine work of grace in the heart. These had gone forth to meet the Lord, full of hope in the prospect of \_\_\_\_\_ reward, but they were not prepared for \_\_\_\_\_ and disappointment. When \_\_\_\_\_ came, their faith failed, and their lights burned dim.” (GC 394)

### **The Tarrying Time**

7. What is represented by the **tarrying of the bridegroom**? “By the tarrying of the bridegroom is represented the \_\_\_\_\_ of the time when the Lord was expected, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the seeming \_\_\_\_\_.” (GC 394)

**Note:** The Millerites expected Jesus to come in the spring of 1843. When Jesus did not come as expected, there was a deep disappointment. The bridegroom had delayed His coming longer than they expected.

8. How did the Millerites face this time of delay and disappointment? “ In this time of \_\_\_\_\_, the interest of the superficial and \_\_\_\_\_ soon began to waver, and their efforts to relax; but those whose faith was based on a \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge of the Bible had a rock beneath their feet, which the waves of disappointment could not \_\_\_\_\_ away.” (GC 394)
9. Did both the wise and the foolish Millerites slumber in the same manner? ““They all slumbered and slept,’ one class in \_\_\_\_\_ and abandonment of their faith, the other class patiently \_\_\_\_\_ till clearer light should be given. Yet in the night

of trial the latter seemed to lose, to \_\_\_\_\_ extent, their zeal and devotion.” (GC 394-395)

10. In what sense could the wise Millerites not **share their oil** with the foolish ones? “The halfhearted and \_\_\_\_\_ could not lean upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of their brethren. Each must stand or fall for \_\_\_\_\_.” (GC 395)
11. What appeared among the Millerites during the time of delay and slumbering? “About this time, \_\_\_\_\_ began to appear. Some who had professed to be zealous believers in the message \_\_\_\_\_ the word of God as the one infallible \_\_\_\_\_ and, claiming to be led by the Spirit, gave themselves up to the control of their own \_\_\_\_\_, impressions, and \_\_\_\_\_.” (GC 395)

### The Appearance of Fanaticism

12. When did the fanaticism especially appear among the Millerites? “These [fanaticism and division] appeared in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, when Adventists were in a state of doubt and perplexity concerning their real position.” (GC 398)
13. **Thought Questions:** Is the presence of fanaticism in a movement a clear evidence that the movement is not of God? Why does Satan plant fanaticism in movements which are led by God? What examples does Ellen White present from Christian church history? (**Hint:** GC 395-397) \_\_\_\_\_  
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14. What was Satan’s strategy in introducing fanaticism? “Thus the greater the number whom he [Satan] could crowd in to make a \_\_\_\_\_ of faith in the second advent while his power controlled their hearts, the greater advantage would he gain by calling attention to them as representatives of the whole \_\_\_\_\_ of believers.” (GC 395)
15. What was the real reason why the Millerites were denounced by the churches of their day? “These persons were actuated by prejudice and hatred. Their peace was \_\_\_\_\_ by the proclamation of Christ at the door. They feared it might be \_\_\_\_\_, yet hoped it was not, and this was the \_\_\_\_\_ of their warfare against Adventists and their faith.” (GC 397)

### The Midnight Cry

16. How was the **midnight cry** fulfilled in the Millerite movement? “In the summer of 1844, \_\_\_\_\_ between the time when it had been first thought that the 2300 days would end, and the autumn of the same year, to which it was afterward found that they extended,

the message was proclaimed in the \_\_\_\_\_ words of Scripture: ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh!’” (GC 398)

**Note:** The Millerites originally thought that Christ would come in the spring of 1843. When their hopes did not materialize, they entered a period of delay and slumbering. This period was broken in the summer of 1844 when a renewed study of prophecy indicated that Christ would come on October 22, 1844.

17. Which two great Old Testament prophecies led to a realization that the 2300 days would end in the fall of 1844 rather than in the spring of 1843? (GC 398-400)
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
18. What does Ellen White say about the fulfillment of the spring feasts (Passover, Unleavened Bread, First-fruits, Pentecost) of the Hebrew calendar? “These types were \_\_\_\_\_, not only as to the event, but as to the \_\_\_\_\_.” (GC 399)
19. What does Ellen White say regarding the fulfillment of the fall feasts (Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles) of the Hebrew calendar? “In like manner the \_\_\_\_\_ which relate to the second advent must be fulfilled at the \_\_\_\_\_ pointed out in the symbolic service.” (GC 399-400)
20. How did the Millerites awaken from their slumber under the midnight cry? “Like a tidal wave the movement \_\_\_\_\_ over the land. From city to city, from village to village, and into remote country places it went, until the \_\_\_\_\_ people of God were fully \_\_\_\_\_.” (GC 400)
21. What happened with fanaticism under the midnight cry? “Fanaticism \_\_\_\_\_ before this proclamation like the early \_\_\_\_\_ before the rising sun. . . . The work was free from those \_\_\_\_\_ which are ever manifested when there is human \_\_\_\_\_ without the controlling influence of the \_\_\_\_\_ and Spirit of God.” (GC 400)
22. What was the religious experience of the Millerites under the midnight cry? “There was little \_\_\_\_\_ joy, but rather \_\_\_\_\_ searching of heart, confession of sin, and forsaking of the \_\_\_\_\_. A preparation to meet the Lord was the \_\_\_\_\_ of agonizing spirits. There was persevering prayer and \_\_\_\_\_ consecration to God. (GC 400-401)
23. Which was the most perfect religious movement in Christian history since the days of the apostles? “Of all the great religious movements since the days of the apostles, \_\_\_\_\_ have been more free from human \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Satan than was that of the autumn of 1844.” (GC 401)

24. What evidence is there that the Millerite movement in the autumn of 1844 had an extra supply of oil? “\_\_\_\_\_ were sent from heaven to \_\_\_\_\_ those who had become discouraged and \_\_\_\_\_ them to receive the message. The work did not stand in the wisdom and learning of men, but in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.” (GC 401)
25. What power impelled the midnight cry? “The message, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh!’ was not so much a matter of \_\_\_\_\_, though the Scripture proof was clear and conclusive. There went with it an impelling \_\_\_\_\_ that moved the soul.” (GC 402)
26. What else does Ellen White say about the religious experience of the wise Millerites? “Every \_\_\_\_\_ they felt that it was their first duty to secure the evidence of their acceptance with God. Their hearts were closely \_\_\_\_\_, and they prayed much with and for one another. . . . The assurance of the Saviour's approval was more necessary to them than their \_\_\_\_\_ food; and if a cloud darkened their minds, they did not rest until it was swept away. (GC 403)
27. The Millerites were disappointed again when Jesus failed to come on October 22, 1844. With what Biblical event does Ellen White compare their disappointment? (GC 404-405)
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28. **Thought Question:** Did the Bridegroom come on October 22, 1844? Where did He come to and what did He come for? (Study Daniel 7:13-14 and Luke 12:36 in the light of Early Writings, pp. 54-56 and The Great Controversy, chapter 24)
29. Was there a shut door in 1844? That is to say, did probation close for a certain group of people at that time?

“I was shown in vision, and I still believe, that there was a shut door in 1844. All who saw the light of the first and second angels’ messages and rejected that light, were left in darkness. And those who accepted it a received the Holy Spirit which attended the proclamation of the message from heaven, and who afterward renounced their faith and pronounced their experience a delusion, thereby rejected the Spirit of God, and it no longer pleaded with them.” (Selected Messages, volume 1, p. 63)

In our next lesson we will study the end-time application of the story of the ten virgins. Don’t miss it for anything in the world!