

The Ten Virgins



We are still in our series about the end of time in this season of the Holy Cross.

These virgins are divided in two groups: the foolish and the wise.

Foolishness and wisdom are going to be at the end our qualifications.

Our judgement is based on this quality.

What makes these five virgins wise?

I think not only their readiness that we see in this verse: “the wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.” But it is their unwillingness to give their oil to the foolish ones: “Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out. No, they replied, there may not be enough for both us and you.”

Yes, their wisdom is well-noticed all over the passage, especially here. We must do the same in our Christian life. Many times, giving to others will be not a solution; it could be a disaster for them and us as well.

What I mean by “giving” here is not only about material things. It is about what others ask for, whatever that may be: a compliment, a compromise on values, to share in gossiping, conspiring to commit a harmful act toward others, destroying reputations...etc.

Unfortunately, in these cases we are far from being wise.

In his letter to the Philippians Paul states: “Do everything without grumbling or arguing...then you will shine among the crooked generation like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.”

We hold firmly to everything except the word of God. We hold firm to our stubbornness, will and emotions.

Now, let us see why the other five virgins are famous for being foolish:

“The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.”

Their foolishness is that they thought of the light without thinking of what would keep the light burning (oil).

We do the same when we want fast gratification; we are impatient and superficial.

If you noticed, both the foolish and the wise became drowsy and fell asleep at the bridegroom’s delay.

The wise ones are well-prepared, falling asleep is not a big deal for them. However, for the foolish it will be an eternal life change.

Don’t compare yourself to others. You have your journey and they have theirs.

These foolish ones went to buy from the oil-sellers, but upon their return the bridegroom entered the house, and the door was shut. To think that they can make it to the shop at the time of arrival of the bridegroom, is a hint that the door was going to be closed.

Yes, they couldn't make it despite this factor. Time is valuable - each minute, every second is an opportunity for salvation.

From here we understand Paul's harsh words: "Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling."

My fear is that in the future, at the upcoming bridegroom arrival, the second coming of Jesus, many are going to wake up and see their lamps totally empty of oil. The oil represents our good words and works. The worst is that nobody is going to help us because each one has barely enough to enter safely from this heavenly door.

Don't rely on bad company doing bad things, waiting for them to give you value and respect, compromising, because the time is coming when you cannot rely on them nor on anybody else, but only on yourself. You are going to regret not relying on God. I quote from Saint Paul: "For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."

Stand for the truth and rely only on God, this what Paul did: "But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.

At the end I say, it doesn't matter if you know Jesus (the bridegroom), what matters is that He at the end will know you: "But he replied, Truly I tell you; I don't know you."

Rev. Father Rami Razzouk