

The Marriage Supper

Parable of the 10 Virgins

Part 3



The marriage feast---The Second
Coming of the Savior to receive his
Church unto Himself.



At the newly prepared home the bride and groom are crowned with garlands of olive leaves---symbol of great joy.



10 Virgins



The Number 10 symbolizes:
Long standing tradition---testing and trials.

Meaning:

Worthiness, consecration, and holiness

The 10 Virgins represent the Church,
they are symbolic of the actual
brides...not bridesmaids or guests





10 was the minimum number of lamps that were required at a wedding while the traditional blessings were recited.

It was a religious duty to bring a
light when attending a wedding.



During the weeklong celebration the father's house was continually lit.



Visitors usually bought oil in the town where the wedding was to take place. Some people brought their own with them.



Since the wedding was a surprise and at night everyone knew they had to have stores of oil on hand.

Level of obedience with all ten:



All 10 had lamps with oil in them.

All 10 took lamps with them.

All 10 were invited to the wedding.

(they were all His brides)

All 10 slept, or slumbered, woke up, and went to the wedding.

Greek---not all the brides slept

Slumbered---means to nod in signaling or beckoning for what one desires to be done.



Slumbering--- 5 wise virgins are
beckoning for Jesus to return



5 foolish virgins have fallen asleep.

5 foolish virgins knocked, expecting to enter the marriage supper:

They thought they could prepare themselves after the Bridegroom came

Or knowing that they at first had not been prepared to enter, they were hoping for mercy.



Either way the door was shut



“Learning to recognize and follow the promptings of the Holy Ghost is the most important work we can do personally.”



Julie B. Beck

Oil



Olive oil is a symbol of purity and the presence and influence of the Holy Ghost.

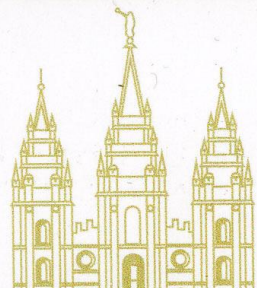
In biblical times

Adequate amount of oil was maintained in lamps



*Today—we must exert constant effort
to remain temple worthy.*

They were not able
to enter the door
without oil

TEMPLE RECOMMEND								
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS								
First name (print)		Initial		Last name				
Issued (circle one)		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Year issued
		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
<input type="checkbox"/> M	Record number							3770093
<input type="checkbox"/> F								
Signature of applicant								
X								
Ward or branch				Stake or mission				
Signature of member of bishopric or branch president								
Signature of member of stake presidency or mission president								
© 2003 IRI								
When properly signed and endorsed, this certifies that the person named is in good standing and may enter the house of the Lord. This recommend expires two years from the last day of the month issued. It remains the property of the Church, is not transferable, and must be surrendered on demand. 10/02, 32600								

Neither can we enter the door of the temple without a recommend.



Extra oil is exceedingly important. This extra resource was quite separate from the oil that was in their lamps. The oil the wise carried in their lamps was no greater in supply than the oil in the lamps of the foolish.

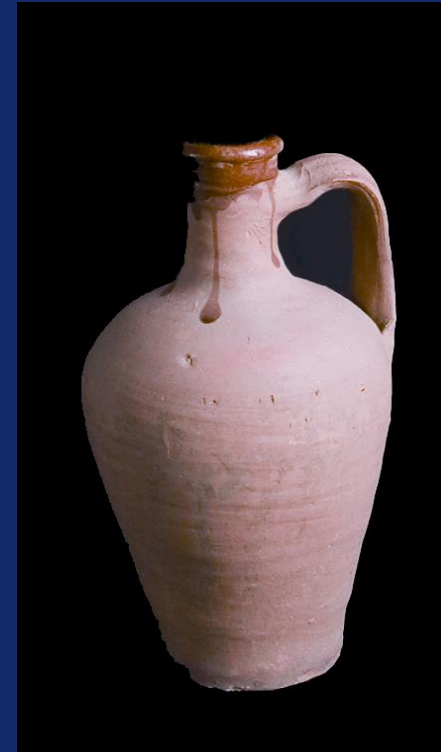
All 10 of them saw their lamps began to burn out as the midnight hour approached. The wise virgins certainly had extra oil with them.

Extra Oil

Their glory and their esteem was not in themselves.

The extra oil came from an external source.

Can we save ourselves?



Drop by drop—a process of change that only comes through our submission to Christ.

The Door

5 Foolish try to find oil while...



... the 5 Wise are invited in.

A servant is left to guard the door.

The Guard---The Bridegroom
“for He employeth no servant there.”



Knock on the Door

“Lord, Lord, open to us.”



“I know you not.” JST “You knew me not”



Could the 5 wise
virgins share
their oil?

“Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you”



Saints are taught to be
compassionate with one another

The wise virgins were not being
rude or self-righteous disposition.

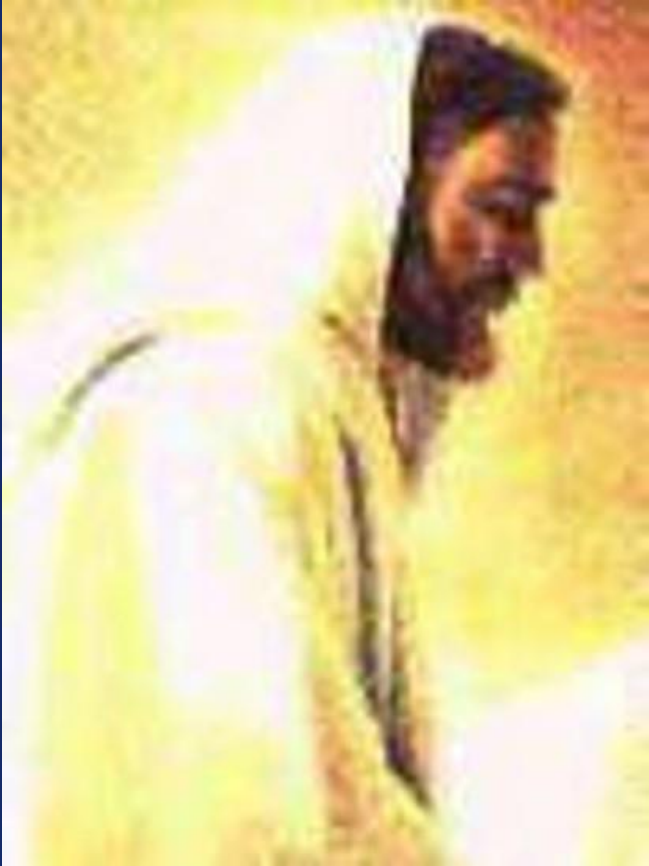
2 thoughts:

Giving their oil would have reduced the evidence of their love and respect for their bridegroom by putting another bride first before Him.



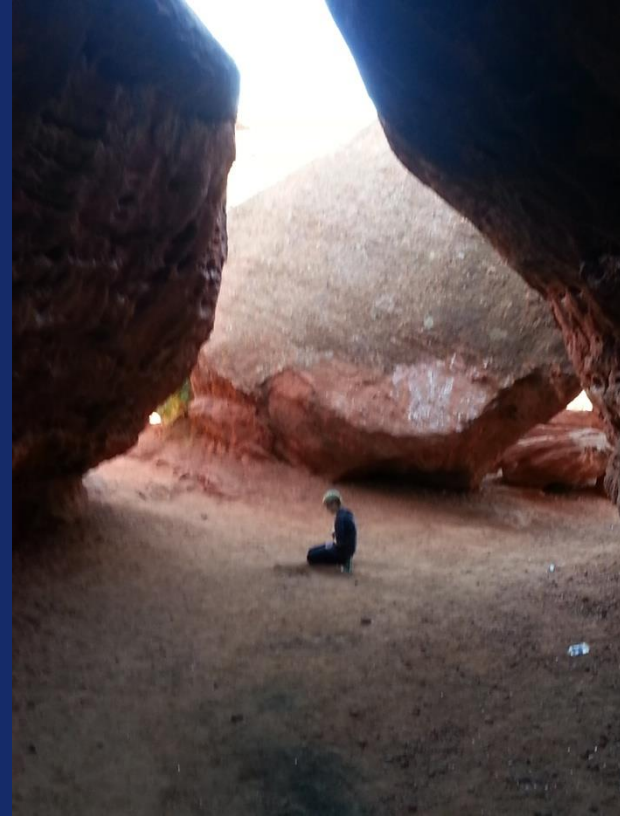
You can not give your testimony to another they must receive their own.

“Go to them that sell and buy for yourselves.”



Buying and “selling” are simply symbolic of getting the oil or character in the only legitimate way--
-through God and Jesus Christ.

Who “Sells” the oil?



Only Heavenly Father can distribute the oil that brings light. He does it through his Son as we approach the Father in prayer.

What price do we pay to become like Christ? We give up all - all the world has to offer and all our sins.



The foolish brides also have to give up all - which they had not done or they would have had oil.



It is too late for the foolish virgins.

Do we get all the time we need?

We don't know when our 2nd Coming will be - it will be either at our death, whenever that occurs or at the 2nd Coming.

The message of the parable does not teach that they can just go get some oil - or Godlike excellent character - when it is too late.



It is merely the Savior's friendly way of reminding those whom He was teaching to use their agency to pay the price to be ready.

The extra measure of oil requires work.

*It requires studying the Scriptures,
following the promptings of the Holy
Ghost and submitting ourselves to the
transforming power of the Savior.*



Entrance to the Feast

Washing of hands and feet and anointing,
followed by embraced and kissed.



Each guest was individually greeted
by the Bridegroom.

All ordinances are done individually.

The Wedding

Everyone comes dressed in most beautiful wedding garments.



For Jews white was not a symbol of virginity, but purity and victory over sin.

Garment represents:

The marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready...arrayed in fine linen, clean and white for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”

(Revelation 19:7-8)



Wedding Canopy

As the bridegroom approaches the canopy (Temple) the guests chant, "Blessed is He who comes."



“For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.”

Covenant hands and swaddling bands

“Tying the Knot”



A covenant together that they will live the same high character on the inside and out, especially in their relationship with one another.

Two cups of wine---

Cup of Joy and Cup of Salvation



Christ drank the bitter cup, we are saved.

Bridal Chamber

Know one another--Hebrew "Yada" meaning to have intimate experience with.

Bride removes her veil and is seen as she really is.



Our Relationship with the Savior

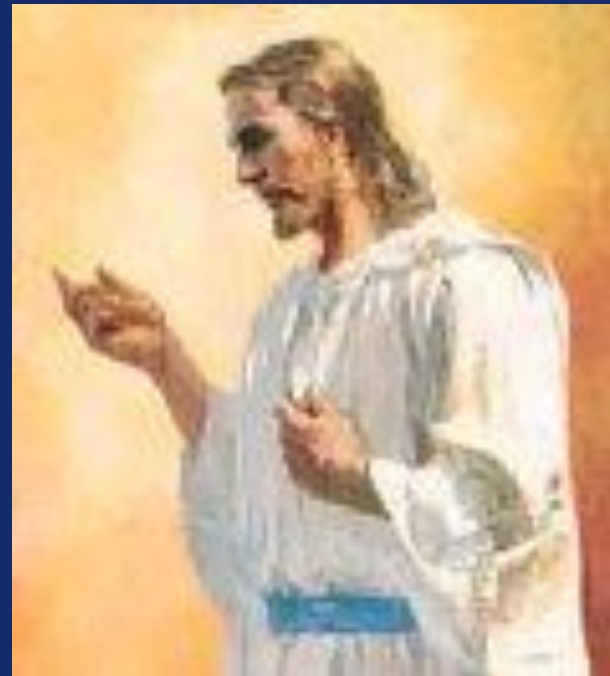
Hebrew word for “one” is
“echad” meaning not one
single unit but the coming
together of more than one
into a unity.



The purpose in Biblical understanding was
to “become one” so that together they
could “bring forth.”

To “Know” Christ is to have intimate spiritual experiences with him.

As we are willing to keep his commandments He will reveal himself to us---removing the veil.

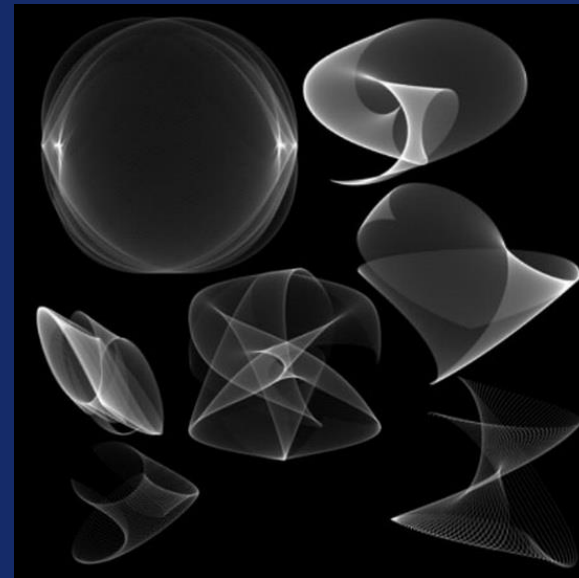


The removal of veil gives one more intimate access.
The bride in ancient days wore a veil over her hair...



...but today we sometimes have other
veils that keep us from knowing Christ.

“Behold, when ye shall rend the veil of unbelief which doth cause you to remain in your awful state of wickedness and hardness of heart, and blindness of mind, then shall the great and marvelous things...you shall know...” (Ether 4:15)

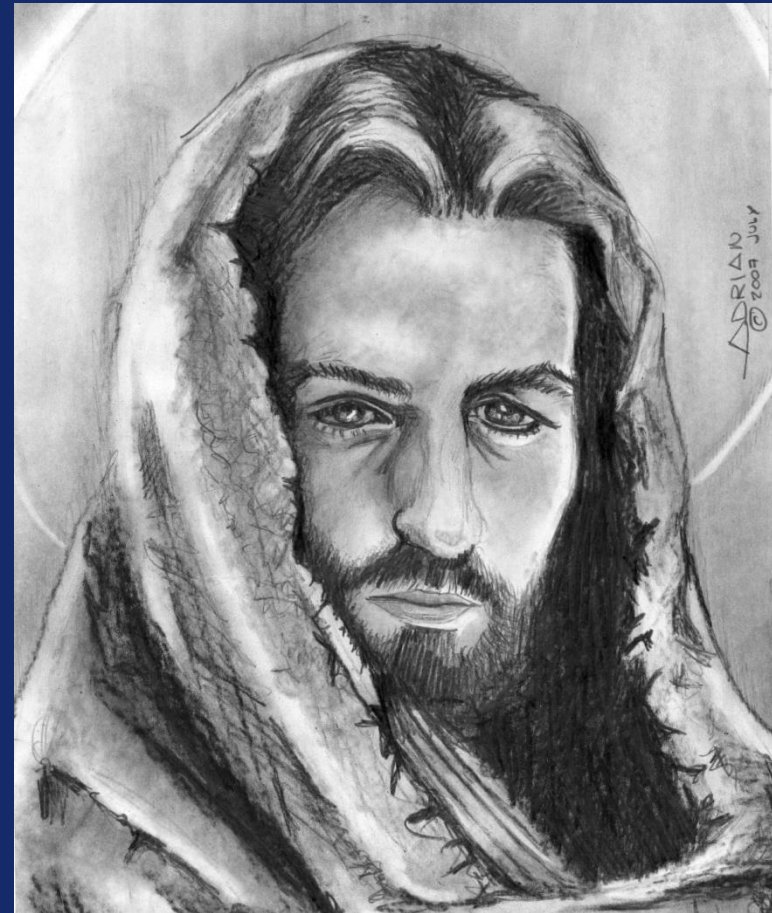


What would happen when we unveil ourselves to Him
and we have not been completely faithful to Him while
we waited?



“...and he gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify and cleanse her...that it should be holy and without blemish.”

Ephesians 5:25-27



Sources:

Poway Institute by Becky Davies and Lesley Meacham

Beloved Bridegroom by Donna B. Neilson

Sketches of Jewish Social Life in the days of Christ by Alfred Edersheim

Jesus the Christ by James E. Talmage