Today we continue to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child as the Light of the World.
We are reminded that just as Jesus IS THE LIGHT of the World that he COMMANDS US to let our light of WITNESS and RIGHTEOUSNESS shine in the dark world of sin and unbelief.
Jesus’ parable is a warning TO CHRISTIANS not to be like the FOOLISH VIRGINS but to BE READY by keeping our lamps FILLED WITH OIL or we will fall under the JUDGMENT of GOD!
We can rest in the assurance that we won’t be like the FOOLISH VIRGINS by answering FOUR QUESTIONS that can prepare us to be WISE in serving the Lord.

Question #1 – Who Was Jesus Talking to?
It is clear that Jesus was talking to Christians in his teaching because he makes reference to TEN VIRGINS.
The “virgins” usually refer to persons who are sexually pure, but Jesus uses the term to refer to those who are made SPIRITUALLY pure through faith in him
Jesus’ message then to Christians is that we must be careful to keep our lamps filled with OIL in order to escape his judgment.

Question #2 – What is the OIL that Jesus referred to in his teaching?
The lamps were usually TORCHES that required OIL to burn. The most common oil used was OLIVE OIL.
Throughout the bible Olive Oil is often a symbol of THE HOLY SPIRIT
Jesus declared that his call to his earthly ministry was initiated as God “anointed him” with the Holy Spirit immediately after the Holy Spirit came upon him at his baptism:
  - Luke 4:18, NIV – “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me To preach good news to the poor...”
Every believer in Jesus has been “anointed” with the Holy Spirit according to Jesus’ promise ever since the Day of Pentecost.
  - Acts 1:8, NIV – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;”
  - Acts 2:3-4, NIV – They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.
So, the OIL that Jesus was referring to is none other than the HOLY SPIRIT living and working within you the moment that you believed in Jesus.

Question #3 - What does it mean to keep our lamps FILLED WITH OIL?
If the “Oil” refers to the Holy Spirit, then being filled with oil means to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
In fact, the bible specifically commands every Christian to be filled with the Holy Spirit as a CONTINUAL EXPERIENCE.
Eph. 5:18, NIV – Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

- Being filled with the Holy Spirit simply means allowing your life to be UNDER THE CONTROL of the Holy Spirit through continual obedience to God’s commands.
- Jesus taught this same basic truth in terms of ABIDING in him.
  - John 15:10, NKJV – “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”

Question #4 – Why were five of the Virgins called Foolish?

- Five of the Virgins were called foolish because they DID NOT KEEP THEMSELVES FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- As Christians we do not keep ourselves filled with the Holy Spirit when we LIVE SELFISHLY for our own pleasure and not for God’s pleasure.
  - Living according to THE WORLD and not THE WORD of God.
  - Pursuing what YOU WANT and not what GOD WANTS for your life.
  - Treating God as if God is YOUR SERVANT and not the other way around.
- The greatest foolishness of all is to participate in God’s gift of salvation and yet continue to LIVE FOR SELF and not FOR GOD!
- Since the five foolish virgins lived as if they DID NOT KNOW GOD, in the end God acted as if He DID NOT KNOW THEM!
- Does the life you are living now indicate that you are a WISE VIRGIN or a FOOLISH VIRGIN?