

The Oil Crisis: Salvation is not an Entitlement: The Fable of the Ant & the Grasshopper; Closing to Door to the Kingdom; Principle: Be prepared! Matt 25:1-13; Joseph & Mary Leave for Bethlehem

Matthew 25:8 - "The foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'"

The Ant and the Grasshopper

Æsop. (Sixth century B.C.) Fables. The Harvard Classics. 1909-14.

In a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest.

"Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of toiling and mowing in that way?"

"I am helping to lay up food for the winter," said the Ant, "and recommend you to do the same."

"Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper; "we have got plenty of food at present." But the Ant went on its way and continued its toil. When the winter came the Grasshopper had no food, and found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the ants distributing every day corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer.

The grasshopper has no food or shelter so he sides hungry out in the cold.

MORAL: It is best to prepare for the days of necessity.¹

The Ant and the Grasshopper: Modern Version

The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for the winter.

The grasshopper thinks the ant is a fool and laughs and dances and plays the summer away.

Come winter, the shivering grasshopper calls a press conference and demands to know why the ant should be warm and well fed while others are cold and starving. CBS, NBC, PBS, CNN, and ABC show up to provide pictures of the shivering grasshopper next to a video of the ant in his comfortable home with a table filled with food. America is stunned by the sharp contrast. How can this be, that in a country of such wealth, this poor grasshopper is allowed to suffer so?

Kermit the Frog appears on Oprah with the grasshopper, and everybody cries when they sing, "It's Not Easy Being Green." Jesse Jackson stages a demonstration in front of the ant's house where the news stations film the group singing, "We shall overcome." Jesse then has the group kneel down to pray to God for the grasshopper's sake.

Nancy Pelosi, Barney Frank, & Harry Reid exclaim in an interview with Larry King that the ant has gotten rich off the back of the grasshopper, and both call for an immediate tax hike on the ant to make him pay his fair share.

Finally, the EEOC drafts the Economic Equity and Anti-Grasshopper Act retroactive to the beginning of the summer!

¹ <http://www.bartleby.com/17/1/36.html>

The ant is fined for failing to hire a proportionate number of green bugs and, having nothing left to pay his retroactive taxes, his home is confiscated by the government.

Eric Holder gets his old law firm to represent the grasshopper in a defamation suit against the ant, and the case is tried before a panel of federal judges that Obama appointed from a list of single-parent welfare recipients. The ant loses the case.

The story ends as we see the grasshopper finishing up the last bits of the ant's food while the government house he is in, which just happens to be the ant's old house, crumbles around him because he doesn't maintain it.

The ant has disappeared in the snow.

The grasshopper is found dead in a drug related incident and the house, now abandoned, is taken over by a gang of spiders who terrorize the once peaceful neighborhood.

MORAL: Be careful how you vote in 2010.²

No one can borrow another person's volition much less borrow his *positive* volition. The unbelieving virgins are caught unprepared. They had their chance to believe in Christ but now it is too late. The Second Advent has occurred and they have been found wanting.

Matthew 25:9 - "But the prudent answered, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'"

The response of the five believing virgins makes the point that the five unbelieving virgins are in a no-hope situation. It is impossible for one person's positive response to the gospel to be shared with another, a situation clearly understood by Paul when he wished that his own salvation could be exchanged for the salvation of his fellow Jewish brethren:

Romans 9:3 - I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh.

The believing virgins instruct them to "go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." This is an impossibility. The "dealers" are the teaching angels, the 144-thousand Jewish evangelists, and published resources that possess the information to which they must respond to light their volitional lamps. The thing these unbelieving virgins are missing is not available for sale but is provided free of charge in response to nonmeritorious free will.

The Messiah's arrival is imminent so the five cosmic virgins must acquire salvation quickly or all will be lost. Unfortunately for them, their unpreparedness results in eternal condemnation in the lake of fire.

Matthew 25:10 - "And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came [**Second Advent: answer to Question #2**], and those who were ready went in with Him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut."

The wedding banquet will only be attended by invited guests. The qualifications for admittance into the Lord's home include trichotomy and eternal life, the assets possessed by those who have placed their personal faith in Jesus of Nazareth as Messiah.

The five wise virgins are "those who were ready" and were thus allowed to enter with Christ and the Church into the wedding banquet. The five foolish virgins were not prepared and were therefore ostracized by the closing of the door to the kingdom.

Upon their arrival back at the groom's home, the unbelieving five find they have been locked out and begin to plead to get into the banquet. The Lord answers with the chilling news that they do not qualify for entrance since they rejected Him as Savior.

² <http://www.07020.com/forums/showthread.php?t=4227>

Matthew 25:11 - "Later the other virgins [the unbelievers] also came, saying, 'Lord, lord [lower case "l"], open up for us.'

v. 12 - "But He answered, 'I am telling you the truth, I do not know you.'"

These five do not have a personal relationship with the Lord. When they had the opportunity they did not respond positively to the love of God expressed by His provision of a Savior.

By rejecting the gospel, these five lost the opportunity to enjoy the Lord's kingdom reign; instead they have been found wanting by the baptism of fire and are sentenced to the Torments compartment of Hades for the remainder of the millennial dispensation after which they will face the tribunal of the Great White Throne recorded in Revelation 20:11-15.

The parable ends with a warning by the Lord for every person to prepare himself for His coming, whether the Rapture of the Church for those living in the Church Age or the Second Advent for those living in the Tribulation.

Matthew 25:13 - "Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day or the hour."

The answer to Questions #2 and #3 is: "Be prepared, 'cause I ain't telling."

The Lord's parable of the ten virgins teaches the concept of preparedness but the customs associated with the wedding procession and banquet provide us with the historical setting that enables us to visualize the events surrounding the marriage of Joseph and Mary.

For the next five months, Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth but they were confronted with two issues they viewed as intractable. If the child was born in Nazareth it would become immediately obvious that the pregnancy occurred prior to the nuptials. Second was the prophecy of Micah which indicated the Messiah's true humanity would be born in Bethlehem. How would they be able to justify a five- or six-day trip to Bethlehem? Answer: God's perfect timing.

In the year 5 B.C., Augustus's mandate for an imperial census took effect in Palestine. Each citizen was required to travel to his ancestral home for the counting. This provided an iron-clad excuse for Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem and it made it possible for the Christ Child to be born in Bethlehem.