

# Matthew 25:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

## Analysis

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**But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps** (αἱ δὲ φρόνιμοι ἔλαβον ἔλαιον ἐν τοῖς ἀγγείοις μετὰ τῶν λαμπάδων ἑαυτῶν, *hai de phronimoi elabon elaion en tois angeiois meta tōn lampadōn heautōn*). The wise carried extra oil in **vessels** (ἀγγεῖοις, *angeiois*)—separate containers beyond what the lamps already held. This was deliberate preparation for potential delay.

Wisdom is foresight: anticipating the bridegroom's possible tardiness and ensuring adequate resources. Spiritually, this represents vigilant readiness sustained by the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence. The wise didn't merely 'attend' the wedding; they prepared for the waiting. True believers possess not just initial conversion experience but ongoing Spirit-filled vitality that endures through delay and difficulty (Galatians 5:22-25, Ephesians 5:18).

## Historical Context

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In ancient Jewish weddings, the bridegroom's arrival could be delayed by negotiations over the bride price, extended farewells, or deliberate tradition (building anticipation). Attendants had to prepare for unpredictable timing—sometimes late at night. The wise virgins' preparation was culturally expected for responsible participants.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What spiritual 'extra oil' are you cultivating now to sustain faith through Christ's delayed return?
2. How do you balance expectant readiness for Christ's return with patient endurance during the 'delay'?
3. What spiritual disciplines function as 'vessels' storing the Spirit's oil for times of testing?

## Interlinear Text

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αἱ	δὲ	φρόνιμοι	ἔλαβον	ἔλαιον	ἐν	τοῖς	ἁγγείοις
G3588	<b>But</b>	<b>the wise</b>	<b>took</b>	<b>oil</b>	<b>in</b>	G3588	<b>vessels</b>
	G1161	G5429	G2983	G1637	G1722		G30
αὐτῶν	μετὰ	τῶν	λαμπάδων	αὐτῶν			
G846	<b>with</b>	G3588	<b>lamps</b>	G846			
	G3326		G2985				

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 John 2:27** (Parallel theme): But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

**Romans 8:9** (Parallel theme): But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

**John 3:34** (Parallel theme): For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

**Psalms 45:7** (Parallel theme): Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

**1 John 2:20** (Parallel theme): But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

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