

Matthew 25:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

Analysis

Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps (τότε ἠγέρθησαν πᾶσαι αἱ παρθένοι ἐκεῖναι καὶ ἐκόσμησαν τὰς λαμπάδας ἑαυτῶν, tote ēgerthēsan pasai hai parthenoi ekeinai kai ekosmēsan tas lampadas heautōn). Both groups awoke immediately and **trimmed** (ἐκόσμησαν, ekosmēsan—'adorned, put in order') their lamps—cutting burnt wicks and adding oil to ensure bright flames for the procession.

The critical moment of crisis reveals hidden realities: the foolish virgins' lamps **are gone out** (v. 8—σβέννυνται, sbennyntai, 'are being extinguished'). External appearances identical until testing. All had lamps, all slept, all awoke—but only the wise had sustaining oil. The trimming represents self-examination in light of Christ's coming: spiritual inventory before meeting the Bridegroom. For the foolish, this examination exposes fatal deficiency.

Historical Context

Wedding torch maintenance was essential—burnt wicks produced dim, smoky flames unsuitable for a joyful procession. The trimming process was routine but critical. Jesus uses this mundane detail to illustrate spiritual preparedness: profession must be backed by reality, or the 'lamp' fails when most needed.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What happens when you 'trim your lamp'—examine your spiritual life honestly before God?
2. Can you distinguish between external religious activity ('carrying a lamp') and internal Spirit-sustaining reality ('having oil')?
3. How does the reality of Christ's imminent return (the 'midnight cry') expose areas of spiritual presumption in your life?

Interlinear Text

τότε	ἠγέρθησαν	πᾶσαι	αἱ	παρθένοι	ἐκεῖναι	καὶ
Then	arose	all	G3588	virgins	those	and
G5119	G1453	G3956		G3933	G1565	G2532
ἐκόσμησαν	τὰς	λαμπάδας	αὐτῶν			
trimmed	G3588	lamps	G846			
G2885		G2985				

Additional Cross-References

Luke 12:35 (Parallel theme): Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

2 Peter 3:14 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.