

Matthew 25:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Analysis

But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you—the wise virgins' refusal seems harsh but reflects spiritual reality: they cannot transfer their oil. **But go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves** (πορεύεσθε μᾶλλον πρὸς τοὺς πωλοῦντας καὶ ἀγοράσατε ἑαυταῖς, poreuesthe mallon pros tous pōlountas kai agorasate heautais).

The command to 'buy' may allude to Isaiah 55:1—'buy wine and milk without money'—seeking salvation while it may be found. The counsel is not cruel but truthful: each must personally obtain spiritual life. However, the tragic irony is that midnight is too late to 'buy'—shops are closed, the bridegroom arrives immediately (v. 10). This illustrates the urgency of present salvation: 'now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation' (2 Corinthians 6:2). Deathbed conversions are possible but presumptuous.

Historical Context

Ancient marketplace oil vendors would have been closed at midnight. The advice to 'go buy' is both sincere (genuine counsel) and practically impossible (shops closed). Similarly, gospel invitations remain open now but will close at death or Christ's return—after which no opportunity for repentance remains (Hebrews 9:27).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Why do you delay in securing 'oil'—the Spirit's transforming presence—when the gospel is freely offered today?
2. How does this parable warn against presuming you can 'get serious about faith' later when it's more convenient?
3. What might it mean to 'go buy oil' right now—seeking genuine conversion and Spirit-filled reality?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθησαν	δὲ	αἱ	φρόνιμοι	λέγουσαι	Μήποτε	οὐκ	
answered	But	G3588	the wise	saying	Not so lest	not	
G611	G1161		G5429	G3004	G3379	G3756	
ἀρκέση	ἡμῖν	καὶ	ὑμῖν·	πορεύεσθε	δὲ	μᾶλλον	πρὸς
enough	for us	and	you	go ye	But	rather	to them
G714	G2254	G2532	G5213	G4198	G1161	G3123	G4314
τοὺς	πωλοῦντας	καὶ	ἀγοράσατε	ἑαυταῖς			
G3588	that sell	and	buy	for yourselves			
	G4453	G2532	G59	G1438			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 14:20 (Parallel theme): Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.

