

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 ἔσυταῖς, 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 λέγοντες 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.

