

The 5 Foolish Virgins

Matthew 25

I regard the foolish virgins as those who have had some feelings of attachment to Christ, and certain impulses Christward to which they yielded at the time; but they were not constant. Their emotion was a real thing, and when they were acting upon it you could not call them hypocrites; but it was not the right thing. They were animated by impulse, not principle. Their religion did not go down to the lowest depths of their nature; it was a thing on the surface.

That character is revealed by crisis. A man has only as much religion as he can command in the hour of trial. The minor surprises of life are to prepare us for the last emergency.

That character is a personal thing, and cannot be given by one man to another, but must be acquired and manifested by each one for himself. Character is not transferable. I cannot give you my courage to fortify you for duty. How perilous to leave preparation for these testing times till they have come upon us. Every time we perform duty the soul is made stronger. Here the store of oil is obtained. "Add to your faith virtue" (1Pe 1:5; 1Pe 1:7).

(Excerpt from *Biblical Illustrator* by W. M. Taylor, D. D., edited & compiled by Joseph F. Exell, Baker Book House: Grand Rapids, 1978; e-reader.)