

The Parable of the Ten Virgins and the Religious Spirit

Part Four

Who Does Jesus Say that He Knows?

We have covered three sections: the Parable of the Ten Virgins along with its' characters and symbolism. We then examined the characteristics of the foolish virgins and others that will be denied entrance into heaven. In part three we took time to examine our own hearts as to discern a religious spirit, and where we find our righteousness.

This final part we will simply look at some verses to determine who does Jesus say that He knows. **Because Jesus says that He knows His own**, then lastly we will take a look at 1 Corinthians 13 and ask ourselves some questions.

John 10:14

"I am the Good Shepherd, and I know (ginosko- I am in relationship with) those that are Mine and I am known by those who are Mine."

Perhaps we can apply these to our own lives in order to grow closer in our relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ. The highlights are for emphasis only.

1 Corinthians 8: 1-3

*"Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies. If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; **but if anyone loves God, he is known (ginosko) by Him.**"*

Matthew 25:34-40

"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me [something] to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me [something] to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You [something] to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' "The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

John 7:16-18

"So Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself. "He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true,

and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”

John 13:34, 35

*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**”*

John 14:6

*Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”***

John 15:10-14

*“**If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and [that] your joy may be made full. This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you.**”*

Galatians 5:4-6

*“**You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.**”*

Galatians 5:22-26

*“**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.**”*

1 John 2:3-6

*“**By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.**”*

1John 2:9-11

*“**The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness***

has blinded his eyes.”

1 John 3:16-19

“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him.”

1 John 4:7, 8

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

Philippians 3:7-11

“But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from [the] Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which [comes] from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

1Corinthians 13 – The Excellence of Love

Jesus says that the one who loves knows God, and God knows him. Finally, as we did in the previous section, let’s take some time again to look at an area of scripture and introspectively ask some questions. By using 1 Corinthians 13 as the definition of love, these questions are meant to help you to examine your heart and motives when dealing with others.

1Corinthians 13:1-8

“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.”

Please take some time, using these questions to introspectively examine your heart and your motives. Confess and repent if you find yourself answering in a way that is not loving.

1. Do you get irritable or restless when having to wait?
2. Do you show frustration or agitation when waiting so as to let the person know I am being delayed?
3. Do you feel that the person who is causing the delay is somehow not as capable as you?
4. Are you kind, or benevolent in nature?
5. Are you compassionate, tender, and gentle when dealing with other people?
6. Are you generous when giving of yourself, or do you do so looking for approval?
7. Do you get jealous of others who seem to be more fortunate than you?
8. Do you feel resentment at another's success?
9. Do you feel you are more deserving of another's success, items, or situation?
10. Are you suspicious or do you unduly guard someone or something from others?
11. Are you ever boastful?
12. Do you ever drop names or circumstances in a conversation to allow others to know of your accomplishments?
13. Do you find during conversations that you tend to top what the other person says with your own experiences?
14. Do you have an attitude of superiority to others?
15. Do you believe you are more important than others?
16. When arguing or in discussion with others, do you feel you are always right?
17. Do you have a problem to have to admit that you're wrong?
18. When in social situations, are you ever bad-mannered?
19. When put in an awkward situation, are you impolite, rude, or disrespectful?
20. Do you laugh at jokes or join in conversations that are insensitive, inappropriate, or improper?
21. Do you demand your own way? Is it your way or no way?
22. Do you ever seek for your own comfort and not that of others?
23. Are you easily provoked?
24. Do you find that you get annoyed or angry easily?
25. Are others able to easily stimulate a reaction or emotion in you?

26. Do you find it difficult to control your emotions when confronted by someone or a situation?
27. Are you one who easily forgives others?
28. When arguing or discussing a conflict with someone, do you list all the times in the past they hurt you or wronged you?
29. Are you bitter towards anyone?
30. Do you hate anyone?
31. Do you hold anyone in your heart accountable or with contempt?
32. Do you hope that someone who wronged you gets what they deserve?
33. Although you may be in a relationship, do you still hold that person responsible for wrongs in the past?
34. Do you hope for the best and God's blessings on those who have hurt you?
35. Do you ever rejoice in the misfortune of others?
36. If someone's sin has been exposed, do you feel as though you are better than they?
37. Do you ever rejoice when you see something bad happen, that actually upholds your beliefs?
38. Do you gloat when your enemy falls?
39. Do you give up easily?
40. Do you look for the best in other people?
41. Do you believe God and His promises?
42. Do you waiver in your faith and beliefs dependent on your circumstances?
43. Do you remain steadfast during difficult times?
44. Do you seek God's glory in all things, no matter the trial you face?
45. Do you remain faithful and trusting during difficult times?
46. Do you treat others in the way you want to be treated yourself?

Conclusion

The heart of a true worshipper is one that knows that without Jesus they have nothing to offer, they have come to the revelation knowledge that their righteousness is never good enough, *"As it is written: "There is none righteous, no not one; ... for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:10, 23). They know that they can only come into the presence of the Father through Jesus alone *"Jesus said, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father but by Me."* (John 14:6) Their true motive of service and worship is love for their Lord.

A counterfeit spirit will substitute zeal for the Lord through religious thinking and behavior. This spirit will deceive us into believing we can enter into the presence of the Father through our own virtue. The religious spirit would have us serve the Lord to gain His approval, rather than knowing that approval comes through the Cross. Striving to earn God's favor with do's, don'ts, rules, and regulations nullifies Jesus.

Although Jesus may be acknowledged, what He accomplished on the Cross is denied. This spirit wants to obscure the Cross, that's where it was defeated. It is by Jesus and Jesus' righteousness alone that we enter into Heaven. Any other form of justification is cursed (Galatians 3:10). By basing our faith on any other grounds, we are deceived and live by our own righteousness. Paul in Galatians makes it very clear that righteousness is by faith alone. *"Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by flesh?"* (Galatians 3:3)

This great deception is covered by a enthusiasm for God. No one was more zealous for God than the Pharisees. No one prayed more, studied more, or lived more respectable lives; yet Jesus told them they would not enter into Heaven (Matthew 7:27). They were deceived by their zeal and self-righteousness. This Bible study compares the foolish virgins to Pharisees; their self-deception and their entrance into the Kingdom denied. This parable would lead us to believe that as many as half the church may have fallen under this deception.

All the virgins were asleep when the cry of the Bridegroom went out (Matthew 25:5). The servants of the master who planted the wheat were asleep when the enemy came in to plant the tares (Matthew 13:18-23). We are living in days where we know the return of our Lord is imminent. The Bride must be made ready. According to this parable of Ten Virgins, as many as half the Church may not be saved.

There is a harvest to be had right in the pews and seats beside us in church. The purpose for writing this study was so all who we stand beside in worship and service will hear the words we long to hear, "Well done, My good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master!" (Matthew 25:21)

I pray that you will be found a faithful bridesmaid, helping to prepare the Bride for her Bridegroom, and preparing the way for His return. So, I share this study, hoping all who are willing to read it will prayerfully consider these words.