

## THOUGHTS ON THE LAST DAYS, THE 2ND COMING, AND THE PARABLE OF THE 10 VIRGINS

Spencer W. Kimball, *Faith Precedes the Miracle*, 253-357 --

He gave us another parable to try to make clear the importance of being always prepared. It is the parable of the Ten Virgins, a powerful warning to all men. . . .

I believe that the Ten Virgins represent the people of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and *not* the rank and file of the world. All the virgins, wise and foolish, had accepted the invitation to the wedding supper; they had knowledge of the program and had been warned of the important day to come. . . .

They had the saving, exalting gospel, but it had not been made the center of their lives. They knew the way but gave only a small measure of loyalty and devotion.

. . . The coming of the Lord is nigh. And there are many among us who are not ready for the great and glorious event.

Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 2:15-16 --

NOT HALF THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS TO BE SAVED. Those who receive the fulness will be privileged to view the face of our Father. There will not be such an overwhelming number of the Latter-day Saints who will get there. President Francis M. Lyman many times has declared, and he had reason to declare, I believe, that if we save one-half of the Latter-day Saints, that is, with an exaltation in the celestial kingdom of God, we will be doing well. Not that the Lord is partial, not that he will draw the line as some will say, to keep people out. He would have every one of us go in if we would; but there are laws and ordinances that we must keep; if we do not observe the law we cannot enter.

Many come into the Church, like fish that are gathered into the net, that have to be sorted and thrown out again or put into piles where they belong. And so it will be with us.

The Savior compared the kingdom, in other words the Church, to ten virgins, five of whom were wise and five of whom were foolish; and so we must not get the understanding that because we are members of the Church it is all well with us, and our salvation is secure, that is, our exaltation is secure. It is not so.

We must continue to the end; we must obey the commandments. We must keep the ordinances. We must receive covenants, sealings, the sealing power, and privileges which are obtained in the temple of the Lord, and then live in accordance with them. That we must do.

NOT SAVED BY FAITH OF OUR FATHERS. We must not lose sight of the fact that no man can lay claim to salvation, or to the priesthood of God, simply because he had a faithful father . . . .

If they are not faithful, then they will not receive the fulfillment of the promise. The posterity of Joseph Smith, like the posterity of any other elder of Israel, will stand or fall on their own foundation which they have builded. And if the sons of Joseph Smith refuse to keep the commandments, the blessings will pass them by; but God's work will continue until the consummation of all things.

*Discourses of Wilford Woodruff* (1990), 254.

The parable of the ten virgins is intended to represent the second coming of the Son of man, the coming of the bridegroom to meet the bride, the church, the Lamb's wife, in the last days; and I expect that the Savior was about right when he said, in reference to the members of the Church, that five of them were wise and five were foolish; for when the Lord of heaven comes in power and great glory, if he finds one half of those professing to be members of his Church prepared for salvation, it will be as many as can be expected, judging by the course that many are pursuing. -- *JD* 18:110, Sept. 12, 1875.