

EMPTY VESSELS HOLD NOTHING

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The bible tells us that our bodies are vessels for our spirit... that the spirit is the vital part of our existence and not the body. Unfortunately, most people do everything that brings pleasure to the vessel and do very little to address the real issues of life. It is the spirit that is the crucial factor in all the events and experiences of life. Mankind has it back to front, they focus on satisfying the wrong aspect of their existence. They never find lasting happiness, nor do they ever understand what it is like to be at peace with the world. Many are so busy trying to fill their vessel with pleasure, they never discover the true value of their spirit. The spirit has the opportunity to live forever; the body doesn't. Without the knowledge of God and the purpose of our existence, we are nothing but an empty vessel waiting for our time to run out.

Jesus emphasised the very limited nature of human life, early in his ministry.

LUK 5:1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing *their* nets. *Their boats were empty and Jesus use this emptiness to symbolise the shallowness of human life.*

3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. *When Jesus got into the empty vessel, he was able to inspire a change of thinking and to shew them how to succeed where they had already failed.*

5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. *This is the story of life... everything we do is full of frustration and disappointment.*

6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

7 And they beckoned unto *their* partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and **filled** both the ships, so that they began to sink. *Jesus had them repeating what they had already been doing all night. Notice how the results are different when the Lord is part of the event... how much better is life if we include the Lord in all of our activities and endeavours. The empty vessel is filled.*

Jesus filled their ships in a symbolic manner... the real purpose wasn't revealed to Pentecost.

ACT 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all **filled** with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. *God fills the gap which man has been trying to fill since his birth... notice the obvious distinction between the way God satisfies man's needs, verses the way that mankind tries to fulfill his life. God's spirit supplies a lot more than one moment of pleasure and satisfaction. The spirit of God is able to keep on filling us with the joy and harmony of eternal life.*

Once we are filled we are obliged to keep topping our vessels up.

MAT 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

2 And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish.

3 They that *were* foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. *The oil is symbolic of the power of the Holy Spirit. We have to make sure that we make preparation before we venture out into the world.*

5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. *People want us to lower our standards so they can be like us. We must refuse... they have to raise their standards, they have to build themselves up in the things of the Lord... not to borrow from our commitment. We all need to be strong in our own right, we cannot rely on someone else to get us into the kingdom of God.*

9 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. *People who use the Lord for personal gain are the ones who find themselves falling short when the Lord needs them.* **JOH 6:26** JESUS ANSWERED THEM AND SAID, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, YE SEEK ME, NOT BECAUSE YE SAW THE MIRACLES, BUT BECAUSE YE DID EAT OF THE LOAVES, AND WERE **FILLED**. *We are reminded of the real reason we should be filled with the spirit... not just for the personal gains.*

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. *In typical fashion, many will wait till the last minute and will miss out on the final blessing that all humans will experience as they are resurrected into a new body.*

11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. *Salvation is all or nothing... it is not like the compromises the world makes with itself. Jesus gave this example so we could learn without the need of finding out the hard way.*

Our future is in our own hands... we need to fill ourselves with the blessings of the Holy Spirit.

2TIM 2:20 But in a great house there are not only **vessels** of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a **vessel** unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. *Fill yourself up every morning.*