

O C T O B E R 1 6 2 0 2 2



And the foolish said unto the wise, give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

[Matthew 25:8](#) (KJV)

Thought for today...

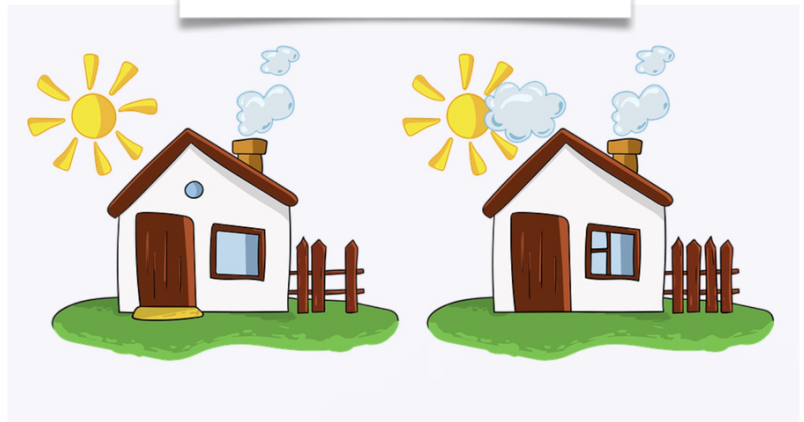
Can you spot the difference? The two houses in the picture may at first glance appear to be the same, but a closer inspection will reveal a few differences. There are five differences; have you found them?

1. The cloud over the sun
2. The doorstep
3. The fence post
4. The circle above the door
5. The window

Spot the difference games are sometimes used to help children to think and learn to notice detail, whilst adults may use such games to exercise their brain, keeping it sharp and hopefully preventing memory loss.

Whilst perhaps finding it easy to spot the differences in a brain training exercise, some followers of Christ may struggle to discern — tell apart, see, hear, detect, distinguish — differences in situations when it is most needed.

Can you spot the difference?



[Matthew 25:1-10](#) records the parable of ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five were wise and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps but no oil with them, whilst the wise took their lamps, ensuring that they also had oil. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept, awaking at midnight on hearing a cry that the bridegroom was coming and they should go out to meet him. The wise virgins were able to go out to meet the bridegroom, but the foolish were not, as their lamps lacked oil.

Witnesses to this scene playing ‘spot the difference’, may have assumed that there were no differences, and that all the virgins were the same — indeed, each of them had lamps — the difference between them (oil), was only evident after the cry was heard at midnight.

As Christ-following-lamp-carriers, are others able to spot whether our lamps are filled with oil? As followers of Christ, are we able to spot the difference between sheep, and ravenous wolves who present themselves dressed in sheep’s clothing? [Matthew 24:4,5,11,24,25](#)

Jesus has warned us in advance that false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect, however, [Matthew 7:20](#) informs us ‘Therefore by their

fruits you will know them.’ (NKJV).

What is the fruit? ‘But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; ...’ [Galatians 5:22-23](#) (English Standard Version).

Can you spot the difference?

