## OIL IN THE LAMP



- 2. Five of the band were wise their lamps with oil filled high; the rest this care despise, and take their vessels dry.
- 3. Long time the Lord abode down came the shades of night the weary virgins nod, and then they sleep outright.
- 4. At midnight came the cry upon their startled ear:Behold the Bridegroom nigh, to light his steps appear!
- 5. They trim their lamps; in vain the foolish virgins toil:Our lamps are out, O deign to give us of your oil!
- 6. Not so, the wise ones cry, no oil have we to spare; but swiftly run and buy, that you the joy may share.
- 7. They went to buy, when lo! the Bridegroom comes in state: within those ready go, and shut the golden gate.
- 8. The foolish virgins now before the gateway crowd; with terror on their brow they knock and cry aloud:
- 9. "Lord, open to our call hast thou our names forgot?"Sadly the accents fall "Depart, I know you not."

- 10. Learn here, my child, how vain this world, with all its lies: those who the kingdom gain alone are truly wise.
- 11. How vain the Christian name, if still you live in sin:a lamp and wick and flame, no drop of oil within!
- 12. Is your lamp filled, my child, with oil from Christ above?Has he your heart, so wild, made soft and full of love?
- 13. Then you are ready now with Christ to enter in; to see his holy brow, and bid farewell to sin.
- 14. Sinners! Behold the gate of Jesus open still; come, ere it be too late, and enter if you will.
- 15. The Saviour's gentle hand knocks at your door today; but vain his loud demand you spurn his love away.
- 16. So, at the Saviour's door you'll knock, with trembling heart: the day of mercy o'er, Jesus will say – Depart.

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