

“On the other hand,” continued Pope Francis, “public authorities—who are primarily expected to create the conditions for a just and sustainable development, so that civil society can develop all its potentialities—can find a valuable and useful support for their action in the commitment and loyal collaboration of the Church,” he said.

In a just and sustainable development, the pope is referring to the definitions placed on those words by the Catholic Church.

Though independent, church and state share “the common responsibility” of meeting people’s “spiritual and physical needs...with humility and dedication,” he said.

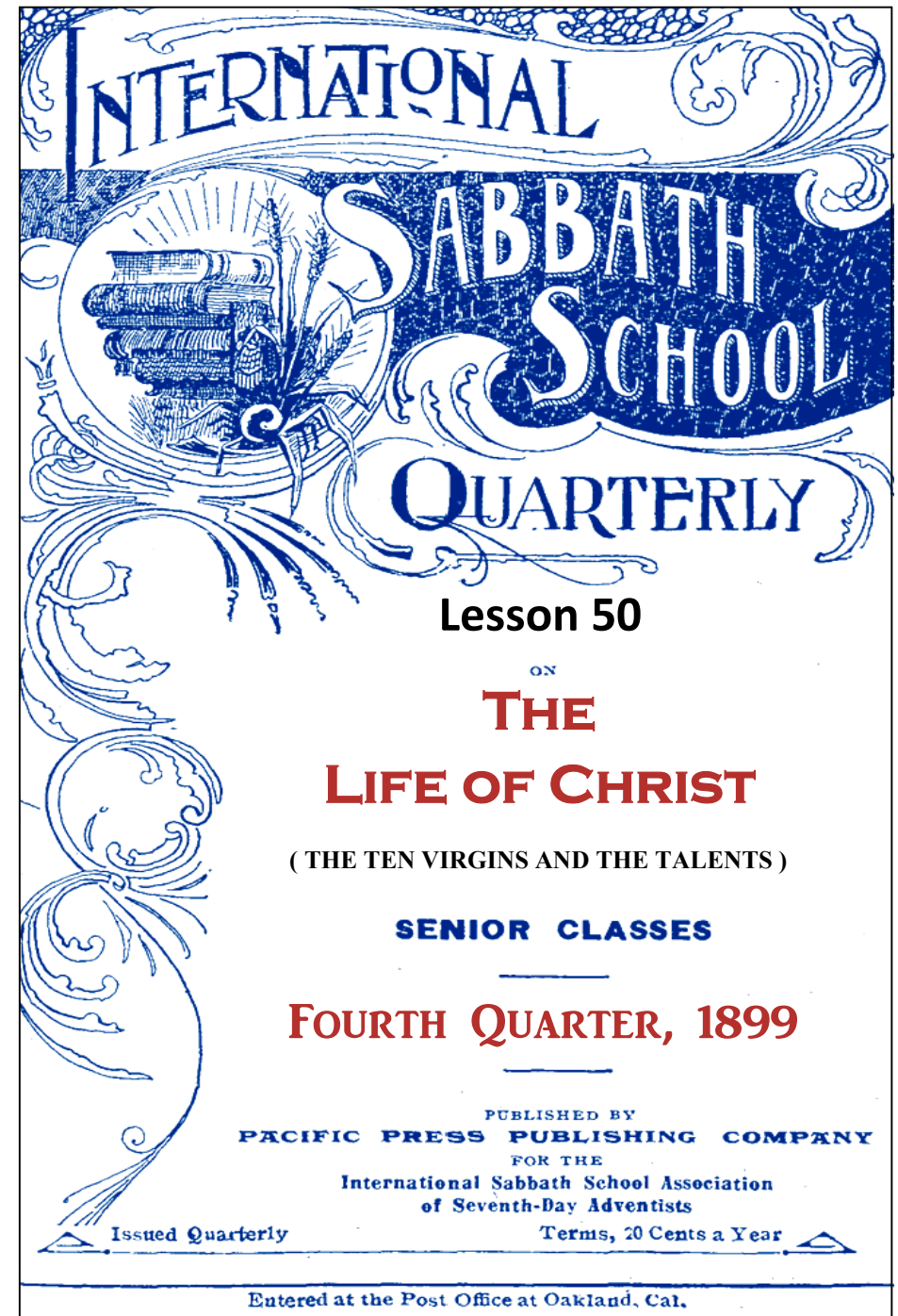
The Pope spoke of the impact of [Catholic} Christianity on Italian culture, including art, architecture, customs and family life. He emphasized the need to care for the environment and to develop employment opportunities for Italian youth.

He also expressed gratitude for Italy’s commitment to welcoming numerous migrants who land on the country’s shores and urged Italian authorities to petition the European and international communities for greater commitment to assistance in the area of migration.

Italy wonders after... See Revelation 13:3.

Source References

- [Pope Francis: religion should not be confined to ‘personal conscience’](#)



LESSON 50

THE TEN VIRGINS AND THE TALENTS

December 16, 1899.
Mount of Olives, A. D. 31.
(Matt. 25 :1-30)

*Side Texts to be
studied with
questions*

1. To WHAT did Christ liken the kingdom of Heaven when the signs were proclaiming the Coming King near at hand? Matt. 25 :1.
2. In what mental state were these virgins? Verse 2.
3. How did the actions of the two classes differ? Verses 3, 4.
4. What were they all doing while the bridegroom tarried ? Verse 5.
5. When word came of the approaching king, what did all do? Verses 6, 7.
6. What did the foolish virgins then find ? Verse 8.
7. What answer did they receive from the others? Verse 9.
8. Before they could procure a fresh supply of oil, what took place? Verse 10.
9. When they returned from their fruitless attempt, what did they say? Verse 11.
10. How was their request. answered ? Verse 12.
11. What alone can prevent us from being counted among the foolish virgins at the day of the Lord's coming? Verse 13.

Rev. 19:7 ;
Matt. 22 : 2.

Matt. 22 : 10 ;
24:45.

Thess. 5 : 6.

Luke 12:35, 36.

Amos 8 : 11, 12.

Matt. 7 : 21 ;
Luke 13:25, 26.

12. To what did the Lord again liken His kingdom? Verse 14.
13. In what proportion were His goods distributed? Verse 15.
14. How did these different ones use the talents intrusted to them? Verses 16-18.
15. What words of commendation were spoken to the first two classes? Verses 19-23.
16. What did the unfaithful servant say to excuse his fault? Verses 24, 25.
17. How did the lord meet his excuse? Verses 26, 27.
18. What sentence was then passed upon him ? Verses 28-30.

Luke 13 :27, 28

Rom. 12 : 6-8 ;
1 Cor. 12:11,28.

NOTES

1. The parable of the ten virgins met its fulfilment in the experience of God's people in 1844, when the great advent movement reached its climax. This included a period of six months, ending with October 22, 1844. The midnight cry was given, commencing in July of that year and continued till October 22.
2. **See " Life of William Miller," " Life Sketches," and " Last Day Tokens."** The talents in this parable represent the gifts which God bestows upon His people to use for Him. They include all temporal and spiritual blessings, and they are given "to every man according to his several ability." Verse 15. That is according to his ability to use them. **See Eph. 4 : 8-16 ; 1Corinthians 12.** While the principles taught in this parable have always applied to the experience of God's people, they will be understood better, and be applied more closely in the last days, after the giving of the signs. Like the parable of the ten virgins, it is placed chronologically in connection with **Christ's teaching in regard to His second coming and the judgment.**