In **Mattityahu (Matthew) 25:7**, when the midnight cry rings out, the *Complete Jewish Bible* (CJB) states that all the bridesmaids ***"got up and trimmed their lamps."***

From a **Messianic Jewish perspective**, the phrase **"trimming the lamps"** is not just a domestic wedding chore. It is a direct linguistic and thematic callback to one of the most sacred daily rituals executed by the **Kohanim (Priests)** inside the Holy Place of the Tabernacle and Temple: the cleaning, maintaining, and kindling of the seven-branched **Menorah**.

1.1. 1. The Temple Connection: The *Hatavat HaNerot*

In **Shemot (Exodus) 30:7**, HaShem commands that Aaron the High Priest must perform a specific task every single morning: ***"When he dresses [trims/fixes] the lamps, he is to burn***

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incense." In Hebrew, this daily priestly duty is called ***Hatavat HaNerot*** (literally, "the making good of the lamps").

To understand what the **bridesmaids** were doing at midnight, we must look at how the *Kohanim* trimmed the Temple lamps daily:

- **Removing the Charred Ash:** The priest would use gold tongs to cut away and discard the burnt, blackened pieces of the linen wick. If a wick is left charred, it chokes the flame, creating thick, foul-smelling smoke instead of pure, steady light.
- **Replenishing the Oil:** The priest would thoroughly clean out the lamp bowls and pour in fresh, pure, beaten olive oil (*shemen zayit zach*).

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- **Straightening the Wick:** He would adjust the linen wick so it sat perfectly in the oil, ensuring maximum brightness.

1.2. The Spiritual Meaning: Cutting Away the Burnt Wick

When **Yeshua** says the bridesmaids "trimmed their lamps," He is implying that **awakening for the Messiah requires an immediate internal cleaning**. Trimming the lamp represents **repentance (*teshuvah*), self-examination, and cutting away spiritual dead weight**.

- **The Act of Trimming:** When you trim a wick, you are throwing away what has already been burned. In the Christian or Messianic life, you cannot burn today's light using yesterday's spent energy. The charred wick represents past achievements, old routines, or dead

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religious habits. To shine brightly for the returning King, those charred elements must be aggressively cut away.

- **The Crisis of the Foolish:** Both groups had the tools to trim their wicks. But when the foolish bridesmaids cut away their dead wicks, they realized they had **no fresh oil** underneath to soak the newly exposed linen. Without a constant supply of the **Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit)** and deep, personal ***emunah* (faith)**, trimming the lamp only causes the fire to go out faster.

1.3. Every Disciple as a Priest

By using this Temple imagery, **Yeshua** is reinforcing a profound reality later stated by the Apostles: **all believers are called to be a "kingdom of Kohanim" (a royal priesthood)**.

Just as the priests in Jerusalem were responsible for ensuring the light never went

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out in the Holy Place, you are responsible for the light inside your own vessel. The sleep of human weakness may come, but a faithful priest always ensures that their hidden reservoir is full of oil, so that the moment they awake, they can trim the wick, add the oil, and burn as a brilliant light in the darkest midnight.

Deep Comprehension Check

Question (Topic: The Metaphor of Trimming): In the Hebraic context of Temple service, what does the act of "trimming the charred wick" spiritually symbolize for a disciple preparing for Yeshua's return?

Option (Correct): It symbolizes the urgent act of teshuvah (repentance) and self-examination—cutting away dead religious habits, sin, and past complacency so the flame can burn purely.

Reason: Correct! Just as the Kohanim cut

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away blackened ash that choked the Temple light, the disciple must actively cast off spiritual dead weight to let the true light of Messiah shine through.

Hint: Think about what happens when you remove blackened, burnt residue from a flame's wick. What does that do for the quality of the light?

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