

The Oil of Intimacy: Encountering the Bridegroom God (Mt. 25)

I. THE CONTEXT OF MT. 25

- A. In Mt. 24-25, Jesus gave His primary teaching on the End-Times just before going to the cross. The Second Coming will come after the tribulation.
- ²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light...³⁰ Then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven...³¹ He will send His angels with...and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Mt. 24:29-31)*
- B. In Mt. 24:37-41, Jesus prophesied of the great death toll that will occur in the generation in which He returns (Rev. 6:8; 9:15). Those “taken” in Noah’s day were “taken in death.”
- ³⁷ As the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking...until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. (Mt. 24:37-41)*
- ³⁶ Two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. ³⁷ They...said, "Where, Lord?" He said, "Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered." (Lk. 17:36-37)*
- C. Jesus’ primary emphasis in Mt. 24-25, as well as His pastoral advice in light of the coming unprecedented death toll was **to watch** or to develop a deep inner life in connection with the Holy Spirit (Mk. 13:32-37). This seems impractical to many, however, if we do this then we will receive instruction, strength and supernatural courage to face everything else.
- ⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house (place of inheritance) to be broken into. (Mt. 24:42-43)*
- D. Watchfulness is to establish a lifestyle of encountering Jesus. It is essential in hindering Satan as the thief from stealing our inheritance (Jn. 10:10). Our primary inheritance is our heart connection with Jesus. Satan seeks to steal this aspect of our inheritance, knowing that by doing this that he will also gain access to our ministry inheritance.
- E. In Mt. 24:45-51, Jesus addresses leadership or those who rule over and feed God’s people. He categorized them into good and evil leaders. Then in Mt. 25:1-13, Jesus further categorized the good leaders into wise and foolish.
- ⁴⁵ Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing...⁴⁸ But if that evil servant says in his heart, “My master is delaying his coming,” ⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow servants...⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him...⁵¹ and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Mt. 24:45-51)*

II. THE BRIDAL PARADIGM OF THE KINGDOM AT THE END-OF-THE-AGE

¹ *Then the Kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the Bridegroom. 2 Five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps (Mt. 25:1-4)*

A. Ten virgins are all born again believers (2 Cor. 11:2-3).

² *I betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a virgin to Christ. (2 Cor. 11:2)*

B. They each had lamps or ministries that brought light to others (Mt. 5:15; Rev. 1:20; 2:5; 11:3-6; Zech. 4:2; Is. 62:1; John 5:35). They all went out to encounter Jesus as the Bridegroom.

C. Oil speaks of our inward reality with the Holy Spirit. The result is that our hearts are tenderized (*sensitized*) to feel more of God's love for us. This increases our spiritual capacity for Jesus and our revelation of Him as it empowers us with zeal for righteousness. The foolish leaders are not the same as wicked, lazy, fearful and cursed ones (Mt. 25:25-26, 41).

D. At the midnight hour of history, the Spirit will raise up forerunners who cry out that Jesus is coming and that we must go out to meet Him. His coming (intervention) with power has serious consequences. We must go out to meet Him or make the necessary effort to encounter Him. They all slept which speaks of their life in context to the natural processes of life in this age.

⁵ *But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'* (Mt. 25:5-6)

III. MINISTRIES RECOGNIZING THEIR LACK OF OIL AND DIMINISHING MINISTRY

⁸ *The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." 9 The wise answered, "No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves." 10 While they went to buy, the Bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 He answered, "Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you." 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor hour in which the Son of Man is coming. (Mt. 25:8-13)*

A. The foolish leaders recognize the mistake of their neglect of getting oil. Spiritual preparedness is not transferable. We must engage in the God ordained process of acquiring oil.

¹⁸ *I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed... (Rev. 3:18)*

B. Many will miss out on future opportunity to be used in their fullest way. The Lord did not know or recognize them as those who engaged with Him as the Bridegroom God. This is not a reference to salvation as when Jesus said, "I never knew you!" (Mt. 7:23). Jesus did call them evil (Mt. 24:48); wicked and lazy (Mt. 25:26); cursed (Mt. 25:41)