

REVIVE CHURCH—ANOINTING 8 (OIL OF INTIMACY)

The fear of the Lord is directly connected to our love for Jesus and willingness to walk in intimacy with Him. We have been looking at the power of the outward anointing or How God's power moves through you and today I want us to set our hearts on the inward anointing that makes it all possible and if neglected will remove the fellowship He has designed for you and the effectiveness of your call.

In Matthew 24 and 25 Jesus speaks of the end times. He connects preparation for end times being directly correlated to intimacy, knowing Him, watching and being faithful to Him. Many will fall into deception, so it is important that we never lose sight of His face and know His word. Followers of Jesus are not meant to walk in fear of the second coming, **but we need to be prepared! If we are cultivating intimacy with Jesus, we should be longing for His return as well as a longing to be used in a massive wave of revival that will precede His return. God has done and will do anything possible to save as many as possible and His plan includes us His church being filled to the fullness of Jesus Christ. (Victorious, overcoming Church).** Our end time belief must be filled with the hope of a victorious bride that will be the light that rises in the darkness and difficulty with a purified love for Jesus. Pressure and testing will reveal Jesus grace and power within His bride.

Jesus calls us into activities that are meant to develop a heart connection with the Spirit. We are told to **watch and pray** ten times in relation to preparing for the end times in the New Testament. Our devotion to Jesus through *Prayer, worship, intimacy and unity will prepare us to be fully equipped* to live out our destiny as followers of Jesus. To watch means to awake and stay awake, be vigilant.

Wake up oh sleeper (Eph. 5:14)

Matthew 24:42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Matthew 25:1-13 (NKJV) 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 "Now 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. 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!' 7 "Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 "And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us [some] of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 "But the wise answered, saying, '[No,] lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' 10 "And 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 "But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Then the Kingdom of heaven shall be: remember Matthew 24-25 are both speaking of the end times. This parable is a will be.

- **Virgins:** All believers are as virgins before God because of Jesus' righteousness **2 Cor. 11:2-** "I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him."
- **Lamp:** Each of these virgins had a lamp which spoke of a ministry or work of the church (container) that brought God's light to others. All followers of Jesus bear His light.

Matthew 5:14- You are the light of the world.

Bridegroom: All of the virgins had revelation of Jesus as the Bridegroom God. At some point they walked in intimacy and fullness with Jesus.

When the Bridegroom Jesus Christ steps onto the scene at the close of this age He is coming back for a bride who is ready, has a burning lamp full of oil. Bride is a corporate term for the church. Reveals the nature of our relationship with Jesus which is one of first love.

Luke 12:35-37 – NKJV "Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.

There is a warning from Jesus in the parable of the virgins **that the wise can become foolish if they neglect their supply of oil.** How does one who is wise become foolish? You lose your first love, lack fellowship with the source. (Ephesus)

Oil- The foolish were those who took their lamps but neglected the oil that makes the lamp burn. The wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps so they would be fully prepared.

The "oil" is the tangible presence of the Spirit. His oil comes and fills us, as the Holy Spirit touches our heart as we spend time with God. It is the oil, (inner anointing) that comes only from a place of intimacy. (Fellowship) and empowers first love.

2 Corinthians 1:21- Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God,
1 John 2:20- But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

1 John 2:27²⁷ As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, ^[a]you abide in Him.

The oil of the Holy Spirit touches our hearts in different ways as we connect with God and willingly enter into The fellowship of Holy Spirit. I repeat, the oil of intimacy is released through fellowship. This is how we buy oil. (Mystery)

1. Holy Spirit *tenderizes our heart in fellowship.*
2. He *enlarges* our desire for Jesus. He empowers us to love.
3. Fellowship with Holy Spirit *illuminates* the Word, and gives us understanding
4. The oil of fellowship *imparts passion for righteousness*, which helps us overcome sin.
5. It is a *gift* that God gives to keep our love alive and burning with passion. It keeps us from burning out.
6. Holy Spirit has an unlimited supply of oil, anointing.

The wise virgins have come to understand that intimacy is the key keeping their lamps full! Intimacy cultivated by prioritizing Jesus through waiting and watching.

The foolish took their lamps ‘themselves, church, ministry’, but took no oil. In other words, they pursued something else as their first priority, ‘ministry’ instead of acquiring oil in their relationship with Jesus.

Teresa of Ávila (1515–1582) ‘The Interior Castle’ she taught that the deeper chambers of prayer are fueled by “the lamp oil of grace,” continually supplied by intimacy with Christ. The foolish virgins represent souls content with outer religion but lacking the inward reservoir of love.

While the Bridegroom delayed, they all slept and at midnight a cry was heard: *“Behold, the Bridegroom is coming, go out to meet Him.”* **7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.**

A poorly trimmed wick creates a flame which is dim and smokey. A properly trimmed wick gets rid of the junk in our lives in order for the wick to burn cleanly all the way up to the highest flame it can make.

Jesus is coming as a Bridegroom God with deep desire for fellowship with us. We must go out to meet Him or to make the necessary effort to position ourselves in worship, obedience, prayer, the Word, and fasting to encounter Jesus.

The foolish ministries recognize their mistake in neglecting oil and ask to borrow some from the wise. Many “ministry lamps” will go out because they will lack the spiritual vitality of the Spirit’s oil. They asked the wise to give them oil. The wise understood their limitation knowing that this oil is not transferable it must be cultivated personally. You can’t give someone else intimacy!

Go get your own oil “buy oil,” is to engage in the process God designed for us to acquire intimacy with Him. **We do not earn this, but invest ourselves in a costly way to receive** *No one can borrow this oil, because it is the result of personal communion with the Holy Spirit.*

St. Symeon (949–1022) Without the oil of the Spirit the lamp of the heart cannot shine, and the Bridegroom finds it dark.”He connected the oil directly with the experience of the Holy Spirit’s presence—what later Orthodox tradition called theosis (participation in divine life).

While the foolish went to buy, the Bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with Him to the wedding; 11Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, “Lord, Lord, open to us!” 12He answered, “Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.” (Mt. 25:10-12)

- This passage is not a warning about losing salvation. Jesus neither knew nor recognized them as those who engaged with Him as the Bridegroom. **When Jesus said, “I do not know you,” He was describing their lack of intimacy with Him, not their lack of salvation.**
- He did not call them evil, wicked, or cursed (Mt. 24:48; 25:26, 41); neither did He say that He never knew them (Mt. 7:23). The door was shut to the foolish.

The Jewish custom involved celebrating a wedding for several nights (ideally seven nights for a wealthy family). **Those closest to the married couple were invited on the first night and continued to be with them each night.** . *The bride that is watching and whose lamp is full of oil will be prepared when our Bridegroom King comes to be used in a mighty way. She is prepared and full and will enter into a mighty move of God.*

Only those who were ready by being close to the Bridegroom went in to the celebration. This speaks of those who will be prepared to be powerfully used by God in the end-time harvest. Only those who were ready went in to celebrate on the first night and, therefore, the nights that followed. The others cried out, “Open to us!”—give us a place of usefulness. Many will miss future opportunities to be used in their fullest way. Jesus’ advice is to watch, or to open our heart, to develop intimacy with Him as the Bridegroom. The most substantial way to acquire oil is by feeding on God’s Word and prayer.. **This positions our heart before God to freely receive.**

Matthew 24:12-¹² Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.

Warning-Don't let your love grow cold! Cultivate your love for Jesus by practicing your love for Jesus.

Home group questions (Leaders make this very personal)

1. Be honest-are you living life as a wise virgin? Do you spend your time cultivating intimacy with Jesus?
2. What does it mean to stay ready, to watch and wait upon Jesus as a lifestyle?
3. Where/how have you allowed other things to distract you from the main thing?
4. Discuss the implications of readiness preparing us to be used in a mighty way in partnership with the Bridegroom King
5. Why must each person get/buy their own oil?