

Message Two

Our Preparation for the Lord's Coming

(1)

Watching and Being Ready

I. The Lord's word in Matthew 24:32-44 is a word about watching and being ready:

- A. "For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be"—v. 37:
 - 1. The conditions of evil living that stupefied the generation of Noah before the flood portray the perilous condition of man's living before the great tribulation and the Lord's coming—vv. 3, 21, 27, 37, 39; Luke 17:26-27.
 - 2. In order to participate in the rapture of the early overcomers, we must overcome the stupefying effect of man's living today—21:34-36.
- B. "At that time two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left"—Matt. 24:40-41:
 - 1. The one who is taken is mature in life, and the other is not.
 - 2. As we await the Lord's coming and hope to be raptured, we need to live a balanced human life, being faithful in our daily duties—2 Thes. 3:6-15.
- C. "Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord comes"—Matt. 24:42.
- D. "For this reason you also be ready, because at an hour when you do not expect it, the Son of Man is coming"—v. 44.

II. We need oil, the Spirit of God, even His filling, that we may be enabled to live the virgin life for the Lord's testimony—25:3, 9-10:

- A. "At that time the kingdom of the heavens will be likened to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom"—v. 1:
 - 1. Virgins signify believers viewed from the aspect of life—2 Cor. 11:2.
 - 2. Believers, who are the kingdom people, are like chaste virgins, bearing the Lord's testimony (the lamp) in the dark age and going out of the world to meet the Lord; for this they need not only the indwelling but also the filling of the Holy Spirit.
 - 3. Lamps signify the spirit of the believers (Prov. 20:27), which contains the Spirit of God as the oil (Rom. 8:16).
 - 4. The prudent virgins took oil in their vessels with their lamps—Matt. 25:4:
 - a. Man is a vessel made for God (Rom. 9:21, 23-24), and man's personality is in his soul; hence, *vessels* in Matthew 25:4 signifies the souls of the believers.
 - b. The five prudent virgins not only have oil in their lamps but also take oil in their vessels; that they have oil in their lamps signifies that they have the Spirit of God dwelling in their spirit (Rom. 8:9, 16), and that they take oil in their vessels signifies that they have the Spirit of God filling and saturating their souls (cf. 1 Pet. 2:25; Heb. 13:17).
 - c. The word *buy* in Matthew 25:9 indicates that a price must be paid; having the filling of the Holy Spirit is at a cost, such as giving up the world, dealing with the self, loving the Lord above all, and counting all things loss for Christ; if we do not pay this price today, we will have to pay it after we are resurrected—cf. Rev. 3:18; 2 Cor. 5:10.

- d. Our urgent need is to gain more of the Spirit as the consummation of the processed Triune God, to live a life of buying an extra portion of the Spirit to saturate our entire being—Matt. 25:9; cf. Dan. 5:27.
- B. Every day we need to be watchful by paying the price to buy the Spirit as the golden oil so that we may supply the churches with the Spirit for the testimony of Jesus and be rewarded by the Lord to participate in the marriage dinner of the Lamb—Matt. 25:9-10; Rev. 3:18; Zech. 4:6, 12-14; Judg. 9:9:
1. We need to love the Lord above all, having our eyes opened to see His supreme preciousness—Matt. 22:37; Phil. 3:8; 1 Pet. 2:4, 6-7; 1:19.
 2. We need to enjoy the Lord in the Word every day early in the morning to have a new start each day—Psa. 119:147-148.
 3. We need to deal with sins thoroughly—1 John 1:7, 9.
 4. We need to abide in the fellowship with the Lord daily and hourly—v. 6; 2 Cor. 13:14.
 5. We need to redeem our time and spend our energy to be saturated and soaked with God's Holy Word—2 Tim. 3:16-17; Col. 3:16.
 6. We need to be watchful, on the alert, for our prayer life, redeeming our time to pray—Eph. 6:18; Dan. 6:19; Col. 4:2.
 7. We need to redeem the time in these evil days to be filled in the spirit by speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, by giving thanks to the Lord at all times for all things, and by being subject to one another in the fear of Christ—Eph. 5:14-21.
 8. We should not grieve the Holy Spirit of God by speaking corrupt, rotten (noxious, offensive, or worthless) words; instead, we should speak words of grace to give grace to those who hear—4:29-30.

Message Two—Verses

Matthew 24:37-44

- 37 For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
38 For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark,
39 And they did not know that judgment was coming until the flood came and took all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.
40 At that time two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left.
41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left.
42 Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord comes.
43 But know this, that if the householder had known in which watch the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.
44 For this reason you also be ready, because at an hour when you do not expect it, the Son of Man is coming.

Luke 17:26-27

- 26 And even as it happened in the days of Noah, so will it be also in the days of the Son of Man:
27 They were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all.

Luke 21:34-36

- 34 But take heed to yourselves lest perhaps your hearts be weighed down with debauchery and drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day come upon you suddenly as a snare.
35 For it will come in upon all those dwelling on the face of all the earth.
36 But be watchful at every time, beseeching that you would prevail to escape all these things which are about to happen and stand before the Son of Man.

Revelation 3:10

Because you have kept the word of My endurance, I also will keep you out of the hour of trial, which is about to come on the whole inhabited earth, to try them who dwell on the earth.

Revelation 14:1, 4b

- 1 And I saw, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.
4b These were purchased from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

Ephesians 3:16-17a

- 16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith.

Matthew 25:1-13

- 1 At that time the kingdom of the heavens will be likened to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom.
2 And five of them were foolish and five were prudent.
3 For the foolish, when they took their lamps, did not take oil with them;
4 But the prudent took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

- 5 And while the bridegroom delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.
- 6 But at midnight there was a cry, Behold, the bridegroom! Go forth to meet him!
- 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their own lamps.
- 8 And the foolish said to the prudent, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.
- 9 But the prudent answered, saying, Perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.
- 10 And as they were going away to buy, the bridegroom came; and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast. And the door was shut.
- 11 And later the rest of the virgins came also, saying, Lord, lord, open to us!
- 12 But he answered and said, Truly I say to you, I do not know you.
- 13 Watch therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

Proverbs 20:27

The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah, / Searching all the innermost parts of the inner being.

Romans 8:16

The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

Ephesians 5:17-18

- 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
- 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit.

Ephesians 6:18

By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints.

Matthew 22:2, 11-14

- 2 The kingdom of the heavens has become like a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son.
- 11 But when the king came in to look at those reclining at table, he saw there a man who was not clothed with a wedding garment,
- 12 And he said to him, Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment? And he was speechless.
- 13 Then the king said to the servants, Bind his feet and hands, and cast him out into the outer darkness. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.
- 14 For many are called but few are chosen.

Revelation 19:7-9

- 7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- 8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- 9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.