

Bible Study 2/26/2021

Parable of the Ten Virgins

A Parable Misunderstood

The parable of the ten Virgins consists of only 13 verses, but those 13 verses may be the most important and valuable verses in the entire Bible concerning the church and our being ready for our Lord's return.

I'm sure we are all familiar with the parable of the ten Virgins found in Matthew 25. This parable speaks Much about the return of our Lord and Savior, and what is about to befall the church.

This parable also, not only warns us, that we better be prepared, but also tells us exactly how to be prepared.

This is an important Bible Study because many of us in God's church (even many long-time members) have misunderstood and misinterpreted this parable, and fail to do what it says.

Remember, it is the ones with the "Oil" that will be ready at His soon coming. But those without the "Oil" (Those who have not been stocking up on this precious "Oil" will fail.

(Thankfully our "Oil" level can be easily measured, we will see that soon.)

There is Nothing more important for us (the church) to be preparing for, than preparing for the return of our Lord, and the Coming Kingdom of God.)

This parable tells us His coming will be a Happy day for those who are prepared. (Because they will hear Him say "Well Done"!) But if not prepared, not ready, it will be a sad day, (because He tells the unprepared, the foolish "I never knew you.")

So let us take this study seriously, because this parable tells us a Lot, including a lot about the current condition of the church, and what is soon coming upon God's church, and also upon the whole world!

Brethren, we are not living in the time when Christ began to build His church that was 2,000 years ago. We are living at the time He is about to "*complete*" His church.

This world is about to shake, and in an "Unprecedented" way. The last time our Heavenly Father disciplined or corrected the entire world, He shook it. But this time He is not only going to shake the earth, this time He's going to be shaking both the heavens and the earth.

This parable tells us how, yes how to prepare. It tells us what we need to be doing now to be prepared.

Many are failing to prepare, because we have allowed men to lead us astray. You see, most men teach that the "Oil" that we need to be stocking up on, represents God's Spirit. But it doesn't!

The oil represents something that takes time and effort on our part to collect, and store.

It is important for us to understand this parable correctly, because if we fail to collect this "Oil" we will not be ready for what is coming, and our Lord's return.

We are at the end of the AGE. Many signs are here now that tell us our Lord is Soon to return.

For most of us we have been hearing our entire life that our Lord is soon to return. But things are different now.

We can clearly see the worldly conditions deteriorating, the pestilence, the plagues, all the signs increasing all around the entire world show us that our Lord's return is nearby.

In the book of Matthew, our Lord speaks about His soon coming, and He tells us to be ready for Him.

(Matthew 24:44.) (Read it)

The book of Luke has some verses that show us we are at the end of the age. And it also tells us this generation will witness our Lord's return.

Luke 21:31-32 (Read it)

This short parable speaks of a "Midnight Cry" that will be heard by ALL members of the Church of God around the entire world.

The "Midnight Cry" will be the alarm, the whistle announcing the beginning of "The Great Tribulation" and the return of our Savior.

The Great Tribulation that is soon coming is a time when the entire world will be in great trouble and suffering. The Scripture says it will be the biggest and worst time of trouble ever.

Yes, the Scripture says this coming Tribulation will be the worst time of trouble and suffering for the whole world, worse than ever before **and** worse than it will ever be again.

Let's see that, let's go to the book of Matthew, because there is a Great Tribulation coming.

(Matthew 24:21) (Read it)

This Great Tribulation, this time of Great Trouble that is coming upon the Kenyans, the Americans, the Chinese, the Entire World, is going to be very bad, so bad that the next verse tell us that God will have to *cut it short*, or stop it, before every man women and child on the face of the earth is dead.

(Matthew 24:22) (Read it)

Yes, God says for the Elect's sake, that time of trouble will be shortened before all humanity dies. (We will see who the "Elect" are, as we move on.)

The parable of the 10 virgins speaks of two groups in God church. There are many different churches out there. But God speaks of only two, two groups.

This parable is very simple. Some are called "wise" and some called "foolish"

(Which group we are in, is our choice. But make no mistake about it, each of us are either amongst the "wise" or the "foolish.")

The "wise" are preparing for our Lord's return, and will be ready for Him. But the "foolish" are not preparing, and will not be ready. (We need to check our "Oil" level. Because what this "Oil" does represent, is something that we can observe and measure.)

Let us read this parable now, and see what this "Oil" represents, and if we have been filling up on it.

Mathew 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

(The Bridegroom of course is Christ; He's coming back to marry His church.)

² *And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.*

³ *They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:*

⁴ *But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps*

⁵ *While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.*

This is where many are today brethren, in God's church slumbering and sleeping. Busy with our daily lives. Not even realizing we are low on this precious "Oil" Not even aware of what this "Oil" is.

We need to know what this “Oil” represents, so we can be fetching it, because God is about to sound a very sobering wake up call.

⁶ *And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.*

(This cry is the Midnight cry that will begin the “Great Tribulation”, and the return of our Lord.)

⁷ *Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.*

⁸ *And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.*

⁹ *But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that **sell**, and **buy** for yourselves.*

Brethren, you cannot buy the Holy Spirit. Simon Magus proved that. (Acts 8:14-20)

The “oil “does not represent God’s Spirit. The “Oil” represents “Truth”. (Proverbs 23:23.)
(Psalm 119:105.)

“Truth” is what we need to be filling up on Brethren, God’s “Word” is “Truth” (John 17:17.)

Truth can, and must be bought; we buy it with our “time.” We need to be Studying the Scriptures, and that takes time, and effort.

And don’t be fooled by men. We are living at the time when “*The way of Truth is evil spoken of.*” Many fables (even in the church) are still being taught (and believed) as Truth, but are not Truth. (2 Peter 2:1-2.)

We have to study more than we might realize. Our Lord warned us (Also Peter and Jude and others warned us) “take heed that no man deceive you.” (Matthew 24:4-5.)

Many, if not most of the pulpits in the cog today, still preach and teach the same doctrines, and have the same beliefs, the same knowledge they have had for the past 50 years or more, with little or no growth. We are to be growing in grace and knowledge.

Some in God's church have raised red flags over the years, questioning some doctrines, knowing they are incorrect (not Truth). But they get discredited, shunned and even disfellowshipped as heretics, as if heresy is a bad thing.

We need to understand something about heresy. (Let me quote from a previous message titled "Preparing for the Kingdom"
http://vwcog.org/Feast_of_Tabernacles-2020.htm

"Heresy" itself isn't necessarily a bad thing. Heresy is just a teaching or belief that is contrary (or at odds) to what is generally taught or believed. Even Paul was said to teach heresy, and he was proud of it. (Acts 24:14.)

It's "Damnable Heresy" that we have to be on guard against. Especially now when the way of truth is evil spoken of, and the many are following "promiscuous" ways. "False Teachings". (2 Peter 2:1-2 again.)

Many false teachings and damnable heresies have been around and taught for so long, they are now being believed as 'truth' when the real "Truth" is evil spoken of.

(We need to be very careful here NOT to get our heresies mixed up.) Because some of our beliefs (strongly held beliefs) might be contrary to the Scriptures. That's why we have to "study" "prove all things" "Hold fast to that which is good" That's why the Scripture is for "Proof" and "Reproof" and "Correction in Righteousness". That's why our persuasion (concerning what we believe) needs to come from the Bible, not from the mouth of men."

Brethren, "Truth" is what the "Oil" represents, and Truth is what we need to be filling up on before it's too late.

Let us also see who the "Elect" are. Remember Matthew 24:22 said: "*For the "Elect's" sake, those days of Tribulation shall be shortened.*"

Elect = Strong's 1588 Favorite, Chosen.

It's the same Greek word used in Matthew 24:14 where it says: "*Many are called, but few chosen.*" "Chosen" Strong's 1588 Favorite, Chosen (same word.)

The "Elect" are the Chosen of God.

All of us in God's church have been called, but not everyone will be chosen. The chosen are the ones who take God's Word seriously, (search and follow Truth not fables.) walk in His ways. Keep His Commandments, do things that are pleasing in His site.

Continuing in Matthew 25:10: "*And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.*"

¹¹ *Afterward came also the other virgins, (The Foolish) saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.*

¹² *But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.*

Let us take our calling seriously, let us prove all things. Hold fast what is good.

(1 Thessalonians 5:21.)

Let us study (work) to show ourselves approved. Rightly divide the Word of Truth.

(2 Timothy 2:15.)

This "Oil" that we need to be filling up on is "Truth" God's Word. Let us not fail to find it, so we will be fully prepared and ready for our Lord's soon coming.

Let us always be careful when men preach and teach. It is okay to listen to men, but we must ALWAYS search the Scriptures, to see if what they say is Truth.

Acts 17:10-11.)

This "Oil" that we need to be filling up on is "Truth" God's Word. Let us not fail to find it, so our vessels will be full of this precious "Oil" and we will be fully prepared and ready for our Lord's soon coming.

Let me add one thing. Some believe our Lord is still a long way from coming, with a lot of prophesy that has to be fulfilled. **Hogwash!** Our Lord

comes quickly. Prophecy is already being fulfilled right before our eyes! And if we can't see it, it's because we are Laodicean Blind and desperately in need of that "Eye Save".

Wake up Church of God. Our God Comes Quickly. Didn't we see how quickly He can move, and how powerful He is, after seeing the latest unprecedented "Arctic Outbreak" or "Blast" that passed through Texas, taking many by surprise? (How many wake-up calls will it take? Well, we know the answer to that. The Midnight Cry is coming, and it will be the last call, heard by all.

The "Midnight Cry" of Matthew 25, comes out of the "Cried" of (Revelation 10:3) (They are the same Cry.) Sounded by the mighty angel saying:

"Time NO Longer!"

(Revelation 10:3 & 6.)

Let us not be taken by surprise. Let's be ready. And understand something very important. Qualifications must be met. In order for any of us to fulfill our High Calling, we have to be "overcomers." To be ready, we must conquer our sinful lives and walk upright!

(1 John 3:3.) How Pure does He wants us? As Pure as He is Pure. And He's no respecter of Persons.