

LAMP TRIMMING TIME

Text:

Matthew 25:7:
Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.



A genuine revival is always preceded by a Lamp-Trimming Time.

God has provided that every believer could be the Bride of Christ, but not all will be ready.

Matthew 22:14: For many are called, but few are chosen.

None are excluded if they pay the price and are pure in this world.

God has never represented sinners in His word as virgins. Virgins represent a type of purity, or freedom from spiritual adultery. “Virgin” here has the same meaning as in **Revelation 2 and 3** referring to the church; and the promises stated therein are only for the overcomer.

The Number 10 in the Bible

The Number 10 is seen consistently throughout the Bible.

- ◆ **There were 10 plagues in Egypt during the time of testing before Israel's deliverance.**
- ◆ **Sarai and Abraham failed God in the 10 years testing, awaiting a child to bless their home.**
- ◆ **Sarai, after 10 years, finally gave her handmaid, Hagar, to Abraham as a wife so that she could have children by Hagar. They have had plenty of trouble ever since for getting ahead of God, and not seeing Him in the test.**

- ◆ **Jacob had his wages changed 10 times during his severe test with Laban.**
- ◆ **There are 10 Commandments testing man's relationship to God and to his fellow men.**

Numbers 14:22-24:

22 Because all those men which have seen My Glory, and My miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted Me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to My Voice;

23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked Me see it:

24 But My servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed Me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Daniel 1:12–14:

12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

Revelation 2:10: Ye shall have tribulation ten days.

Luke 19:13: [Parable of the Ten Pounds – Jesus spoke]

12 He [Jesus] said therefore, “A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, ‘Occupy till I come.’”



This text of the 10 Virgins is a matchless picture of the saints looking for the Coming of their Bridegroom, and going to meet Him. They are called virgins; five were wise and five were foolish. The foolish ones did not take oil in their vessels with their lamps. No man can understand the things of the Spirit, but those who are Spirit-taught.

Some would teach that the foolish virgins were sinners who only had a profession of religion, and not the possession. Would Jesus call sinners, virgins? Do sinners have the light? Are sinners looking for the Coming of Christ? Are they so anxiously going to meet Him? In the midnight cry — the time when the return of the Bridegroom is announced — are sinners to hear it and waken to their condition and made to exclaim: "Our lamps are gone out."?

These lamps were certainly lighted, but the foolish virgins were unprepared because they failed to observe the warnings of the Master. Jesus warned them that He would be coming back, to watch for His Return, and to be prepared. (**Matthew 24:36-51**)

Matthew 24:36-51:

36 *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of Heaven, but my Father only.*

37 *But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the Coming of the Son of Man be.*

38 *For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,*

39 *And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the Coming of the Son of Man be.*

40 *Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

41 *Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

42 *Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*

43 *But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.*

44 *Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh.*

45 *Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?*

46 *Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.*

47 *Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his*

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goods.

48 *But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;*

49 *And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;*

50 *The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,*

51 *And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*



The smoking wicks from a low oil supply became charred because of the neglect and indifference of the foolish virgins. A genuine revival is Lamp-Trimming Time to all the children of God. We must trim ourselves by the Word of God.

It is to the saints that the sad warnings of danger in unpreparedness come from Christ throughout the whole Bible. Lot slumbered, spiritually, and his wife slept. Lot barely escapes; his wife is lost in the escaping! She started to flee the city, was on the outside of the judgment area, yet she looked back and became a pillar of salt.

The cares of this life, the deceitfulness of riches, the pleasures of this life — all these things choke the Word. Those who indulge in them are spiritually unfruitful. Jesus tells what happens to the unfruitful in **Romans 11**. Again, the wild olive and the natural branches show the same warnings as in **Matthew 25**. Yet, this is not all:



Galatians 5:1 & 4:

1 *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

4 *Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the Law; ye are fallen from grace.*

Hebrews 10:28: *He that despised Moses' Law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:*

2 Peter 1:3-10:

³ According as His Divine Power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine Nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:



2 Peter 2:15: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

2 Peter 3:17: Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness [secure position].

Revelation 2: 5, 16 & 25:

⁵ Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

¹⁶ Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

²⁵ But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

Revelation 3:2-5:

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white: for they are worthy.

5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.

There is a sharp rebuke here in this Scripture to all of you who are careless, not heeding the warnings of the Bible, and not watching or preparing for His Coming.



Hebrews 2:1: Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

It is certain that this present world is the only place we have to get ready and stay ready. It takes the same sound consecration to keep filled with faith and the Word of God as it did to get filled with the Spirit at our conversion. Scripture says the Bridegroom was to tarry and — because He would tarry — many fall to sleep and slumber. This is expressed in:

Romans 13:11-14:

11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation [Christ's Return] nearer than when we believed.

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.



All shall be without excuse who fail to heed the warnings which are very plain and simple. You easy-going and coasting virgins — **Jesus is Coming** — in a moment, like a flash, and you will not have time to prepare to meet Him.



This is His message to the saints, to His virgins.

Proverbs 4:23: *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

Revelations 2:10b: *be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a Crown of Life.*

Luke 19:13b: The Words of Jesus *“Occupy till I come.”*

In the parable of the Marriage Feast of the king's son as recorded in **Matthew 22:1-10**, we see a universal call by a father to come to a marriage feast which he had prepared for his son.

Matthew 22:1-10:

1 *And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,*

2 *The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,*

3 *And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.*

4 *Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.*

5 *But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another*

to his merchandise:

6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.



This Marriage Feast is a Type or Foreshadow of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb which will come at the end of the Age:

Revelation 19:9: And He saith unto me, "Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the Marriage Supper of the Lamb." And He saith unto me, "These are the true sayings of God."

In this parable, we are given another example of someone who was excluded from the Marriage Feast. Here we have a man who did not have on the wedding garment. The confronted, the man was speechless.



Matthew 22:11-14:

12 And he [the king] saith unto him, "Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?" And he [the man] was speechless.

13 Then said the king to the servants, "Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

The secret of readiness is watchfulness, and the secret of watchfulness is in the love affair between the Bridegroom [Christ Jesus] and the Bride [His faithful saints]. To the Church at Ephesus, this terrible **Woe** is given by Christ

Jesus, Himself:

Revelation 2:4-5:

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Check your oil, brother and sister. It might be low. Those who thought they had enough oil to make it in were caught napping. Even the wise virgins had to have a Lamp-Trimming Time to make it into the Door. The Door is opened in **Revelation 4**, and nowhere is the Church mentioned after the **fourth chapter in the Book of Revelation** until we see them at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.



Both striking and grievous is **Revelation the 7th chapter** where a multitude comes out of the Great Tribulation, and they serve Him night and day. The others worship Him and enjoy the fullness of Heaven's blessedness because they were prepared to go into the Marriage.

The secret to readiness, saints, is in watchfulness. This explains why the wise virgins cannot help the foolish virgins. **It is not that they are selfish and will not give them oil, but that it cannot be done.**

Some poor letter-of-the-Word preachers even stumble over the next word of advice, to "go to them that sell and buy". That again belongs to the framework of the parable. The thought conveyed is plain enough to those who know of only the letter of the law, but not the Spirit of the Word. It is simply this: **Grace and the Anointing are not transferrable.**

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Those virgins:

- * with a heart kept in constant communion with Christ,**
- * who are in tune with Him,**

* who are on fire for Him, and

* who are not lukewarm

are the virgins that spend this time of our Lord's personal absence in readiness for the future Coming of the Marriage of the Lamb.

I cannot consecrate myself to Christ for you, nor can I be filled with the Spirit for you. You must get your own filling by your own surrender, and by your own death to the World, the flesh, and the devil.

We will not stumble when we read carefully the Word, noticing:

Revelation 3:18 & 19:

18 I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Isaiah 55:1-4:

1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto Me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

3 Incline your ear, and come unto Me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

4 Behold, I have given Him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.

The same principles apply to the solemn close of the parable. The question has been asked, "Why didn't the Bridegroom open the door for the foolish virgins? Even though they were late, they wished to enter in. Why shouldn't they be allowed?"

Again, let us look beyond the letter of the Parable to the Spirit of it. If it were the mere opening of a door that would remedy the lateness, assuredly it would be done;

but the real fact is, **the lateness is now beyond remedy. The door is shut. It cannot be opened.**

Ponder the solemn words: "*I know you not.*" The real issue here is one's union to Christ. The foolish virgins had lived a life that was spirit-filled, **but at the end of their journey they slumbered.** This is a mistake that will become fatal if we **slumber.** That is the reason God has called Me, as a faithful Shepherd, to warn you.



There are many carnal Christians who live worldly, indifferent lives. They will have to pass through the fires of that judgment time of wrath poured out upon the whole earth before the reign of Christ. **This may not be a welcome truth, but it is the clear teaching of Scripture.**

1 Corinthians 3:12-16:

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.



15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

That is the reason the wedding is mentioned in **Revelation 19** before the Return of Christ with all His saints. Finally, the Bride will be ready.

Revelation 19:7b: and His wife hath made herself ready. [The Bride of Christ — His Faithful Saints]

Ephesians 5:26: That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word.

Christ will sanctify and cleanse His Church by the washing of water and by the Word.

Notice: **sanctify** and **cleanse** are different words with far different meanings. One is sanctifying by the washing of water by the Word; and if we refuse this method, He will cleanse us by fire — a purging that will cost us much pain, and we will suffer the loss of all rewards.

This is Lamp-Trimming Time. If you will not let the Word trim you now, then you will have a worse trimming later.

Before closing this message, I feel impressed to bring to your mind the conclusion of events after the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.

After the Wedding, there will be our honeymoon with Christ for the Millennial Reign — 1,000 years with Christ! Before this Wedding, however, we must stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. There, our position — both in Heaven and during the Kingdom Age — will be determined by the works we have done here on earth. What were our motivations — self? power? serving the Lord with a pure heart? fame? to be seen by men? Will our works stand the test, or will they be burned by fire?

Jesus has gone into the far country to receive a Kingdom. When He returns to this earth, He will return with those who are worthy to reign with Him — ten thousands of His saints, as spoken by Enoch when the Spirit of prophecy came upon him.

Jude 1:14: And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

Qualifications to Reign With Christ

There are certain qualifications that must be met to reign with Christ, beloved. We must learn, here on earth, to be obedient to the Word of God to qualify for spiritual rulership.

Only those who grow into the Image of Jesus Christ and become Christlike shall be fit to reign with Him. We must be crucified with Christ to the Flesh and to the World, for only then can we become spiritual and have the Divine Oil of the Holy Spirit.



So long as the Old Man nature exists, we can never be victorious overcomers.

For our flesh will never be overcome by petting it, but by crucifying it with the help of the Spirit.

Matthew 16:24: Then said Jesus unto His disciples, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

The Cross is the instrument of death — the daily essential for a Christian to be prepared to meet Him in victory, and to be without spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing. This is the expected condition of the ten lovely girls our Master likens the Kingdom of Heaven. Please receive the words of the Master with most earnest heed.



To me you might all look alike in many respects as being His virgins; but it is not your looks — but what you have *inside* — that is going to tell the truth. As far as I might visualize, your lamp is no better or worse than the wise virgins. The foolish virgins knew as much as the wise ones. They had the same oil.

All the virgins trimmed their lamps. They all had the same intentions of seeing the Bridegroom, but they did not all go into the open door. The foolish virgins are sobbing outside the door, all because ***“one thing thou lackest.”*** That was not salvation, or church membership, but **unreadiness and unpreparedness to meet the Bridegroom because their oil lamps had gone out.**

How is it with you? Have you checked your oil lately?



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