

***Session 04 The Oil of Intimacy: Encountering the Bridegroom God (Mt. 25)***

**I. THE BRIDAL PARADIGM OF KINGDOM MINISTRY AT THE END-OF-THE-AGE**

***Then the Kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the Bridegroom. (Mt. 25:1)***

1. Took their lamps – public ministry that brings God’s light to others
2. Ten virgins – all are born again believers (2 Cor. 11:2-3).
3. Went out to meet the Bridegroom – revelation of Jesus as the Bridegroom God
4. Then the Kingdom shall be likened to virgins meeting the Bridegroom – at the end-of-the-age. The word ‘then’ leads us back to the end-of-the-age theme of Mt. 24.

**II. THE OIL OF INTIMACY WITH JESUS AS OUR BRIDEGROOM GOD**

***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. 25:2-4)***

- A. The ‘oil of intimacy’ – cultivating our secret life in God. This enhances our daily communion with God by increasing our spiritual capacity with supernatural ability to encounter Jesus.
1. **It tenderizes** (*sensitizes*) **the heart** to freely feel (*receive*) more of God’s love and desire for us. Our spiritual capacity increases (tenderized emotions to feel God).
  2. **It enlarges our desire for Him** as we encounter His desire for us. In other words, understanding His desire for us awakens our desires back for Him.
  3. **It illuminates our understanding** with revelation of God’s desire and beauty.
  4. **It strengthens our spiritual identity** (revelation of our true self before God). In Christ we are sons before the Father and the bride before the Son.
  5. **It empowers our emotions with zeal for righteousness** (Heb 1:8; Ps. 69:7-10; Jn. 2:17). This helps us in our struggle with besetting sins that entrap us. The impartation of new desires of God aids in diminishing our old desires for sin.
- B. The foolish took their lamps, but took no oil – pursuing public ministry as our priority over oil.
- C. The wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps – pursuing oil as our priority over ministry.

**III. THE CENTRAL NEED FOR CULTIVATING OIL IN THE END-TIMES**

- A. *While the Bridegroom delayed, they all slept. (Mt. 25:5)* – natural processes of life
- B. *At midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the Bridegroom is coming; go out to meet Him' (Mt. 25:6)*
1. At midnight a cry was heard – dark midnight of history just before the Second Coming
  2. A cry was heard, “Behold, the Bridegroom is coming” – forerunner messengers
  3. Go out to meet Him – make the necessary effort to get up and go out to encounter Jesus
- C. *Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' (Mt. 25:7-8)*
1. All the virgins arose and trimmed their lamps – the natural processes of life
  2. The foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out”
- D. *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.' (Mt. 25:9)*
1. The wise said "No" – the necessity of refusing ministry opportunities that are not God's best
  2. Go buy oil for yourselves (Rev. 3:18) – engage in the God ordained process of getting oil
- E. *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.' (Mt. 25:10-12)*
1. While they went to buy, the Bridegroom came – God's manifest Presence
  2. Those who were ready went in with Him and the door was shut – place of usefulness
  3. The other virgins came saying, 'Lord, open to us!' – give us the same place of usefulness
  4. The Lord answered, 'I do not know you' – intimacy not salvation i.e., never knew you!' (Mt. 7:23); evil (Mt. 24:48); wicked and lazy (Mt. 25:26); cursed (Mt. 25:41)
- F. *Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. (Mt. 25:13)*