



[www.thereflectioncenter.com](http://www.thereflectioncenter.com)

## **GETTING A RIGHT PERSPECTIVE**

### *Session 5: Casual vs. Seeking*

#### **I. The Context of the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins**

- A. Jesus connected preparation for the end times to intimacy with God. In Matthew 24-25, Jesus taught on the end times (Mt. 24:3-44) then applied his teaching in three parables to those He called to leadership (Mt. 24:45-25:30) before describing His final judgment (Mt. 25:31-46).
- B. Jesus said that He would come quickly. We are to be faithful during the time of His delay.
  - 1. Parable #1: Jesus' delay is shorter than expected. The parable of the good and evil servants in Mt. 24:45-51 contrasts two types of leaders in the kingdom. The wicked leaders worked with wrong motives that abused their God-given blessing and authority. The good servants are the leaders who are wise and faithful as they feed God's people.
  - 2. Parable #2: Jesus' delay is longer than expected. The parable of the wise and foolish virgins in Mt. 25:1-13 emphasizes the need to stay connected with the Spirit to cultivate intimacy with Jesus as our Bridegroom God. Some wise leaders with good motives end up working with a wrong spirit by neglecting to maintain their intimacy with God.
  - 3. Parable #3: Jesus' delay is harder than expected. The parable of the faithful steward in Mt. 25:14-30 focuses on being faithful in our ministry assignment in the times it seems small and hard (Mt. 25:21, 24). The majority have a small ministry assignment. Those responding wrongly worked with the wrong evaluation and neglected their assignment.
- C. In the end times the Spirit will emphasize three aspects of Jesus' personality and ministry in being Bridegroom, King, and Judge (Mt. 24-25, Rev. 19; Isa. 61-63; Ps. 45). We encounter His desire for us as a Bridegroom; His power as King; and His zeal, as Judge, to remove everything that hinders love.
- D. Jesus' main exhortation to us to be prepared for the end times is that we should watch, or develop a heart connection with the Spirit. (Mt. 24:36, 42-44, 50; 25:13). We are exhorted to watch and pray ten times in relation to preparing for the end times (Mt. 24:42; 25:13; Mk. 13:9, 33, 34, 35, 37; Lk. 21:36; 1 Thes. 5:6; Rev. 16:15).

- E. “Acquiring oil” is actively connecting with God, not just being in isolation to “take down-time for myself.” To watch is to have an attentive heart to what the Spirit is speaking to our lives and to be “anointed observers” of what He is doing in society, with a response of prayer. Watching involves cultivating faith that agrees with what the Word and the Spirit say about Jesus’ return.

## II. Five Wise Virgins

- A. The “oil” speaks of the presence of the Spirit touching our heart as we spend time with God (2 Cor 1:21; 1 Jn. 2:20, 27). The oil of the Holy Spirit touches our hearts in different ways: **it tenderizes our heart, enabling us to feel more of God’s desire for us**; it enlarges our desire for Him by encountering His desire for us; **it illuminates our understanding with revelation of God’s beauty**; it imparts zeal for righteousness, which helps us in our struggle with besetting sins.
- B. The foolish took their lamps (ministry), but took no oil. In other words, they pursued ministry as their first priority, instead of acquiring oil in their relationship with Jesus.
- C. The wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. In other words, they pursued acquiring oil as their first priority before seeking to expand and network their ministry. Our relationship with Jesus is our most important “dream,” not our ministry assignment.

## III. The Great Need to Cultivate Oil

- A. The foolish ministries recognize their mistake in neglecting oil.  
*8 The foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” 9 The wise answered, “No, lest there should not be enough for us and you;*  
Mt. 25:8-9
- B. 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 to “bolster” their ministries. The wise understood their limitation knowing that their spiritual history and spiritual preparedness is not transferrable.
- C. Jesus exhorts us to “buy oil,” to engage in the God-ordained process of acquiring intimacy with God. We do not earn this, but invest ourselves in a costly way to receive it.  
*I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich...*  
Rev. 3:18

## IV. A Reminder from King David

David’s life message was a preview of Jesus’ teaching and an example for us to follow.

*One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.*  
Ps 27:4