

“GOING DEEPER” SESSION THREE: *The Oil of Intimacy—Part One*

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. (Matt. 25:1)

- A. Took their lamps – public ministry that brings God’s light to others
- B. Ten virgins – all are born again believers (2 Cor. 11:2-3)
- C. Went out to meet the Bridegroom – revelation of Jesus as the Bridegroom God
- D. *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 Matt. 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 (Matt. 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; John 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. (Matt. 25:5) – natural processes of life
- B. At midnight *a cry was heard*: 'Behold, the *Bridegroom is coming*; go out to meet Him' (Matt. 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.*’ (Matt. 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.*’ (Matt. 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.’ (Matt. 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!*” (Matt. 7:23); *evil* (Matt. 24:48); *wicked and lazy* (Matt. 25:26); *cursed* (Matt. 25:41).
- F. *Watch therefore*, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. (Matt. 25:13)

Going Deeper Session 3 Study Guide Questions

- How can I cultivate the oil of intimacy in my own life? What are some steps I can take to get to know Jesus as the Bridegroom God?
- What can I do to make sure I am not sleeping in the end and am ready for Jesus' return?