



## 2020 – CG Notes #08

### Oil in my lamp

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*These notes are based on Ps Jack Hanes' message, Sunday AM, 19 April, 2020.*

Read together this story from Matthew's gospel. In this particular challenging season, there is wisdom for us to gain in how we can be best prepared for any situation we might face.

#### **Matthew 25:1-13 (NKJV)**

*"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. <sup>3</sup> Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.*

*<sup>6</sup> "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup> 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.' <sup>10</sup> And 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.*

*<sup>11</sup> "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' <sup>12</sup> But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'*

*<sup>13</sup> "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*

This wedding scene is different from what we experience in western culture. In a modern wedding, there will be one, two and sometimes several bridesmaids who look lovely but are not required to do very much on the day. In the middle-eastern culture of Jesus' day, these women were usually quite young and performed the role of servants. Their task was to welcome the bridegroom, see to his particular needs, participate in the

procession of obtaining the bride and bringing her back to the groom's family home. The procession usually occurred in the early evening, the first night of the wedding feast which continued for days.

Because it would be the night, before all was said and done, the young women brought lamps to light the way. Some scholars describe these lamps as torches made from large sticks, wrapped in rags and doused in oil. If this was the case, the need for oil was much greater than the small clay lamp commonly used. The rag torch would need to be replenished as often as every fifteen minutes.



For whatever reason, the bridegroom delayed his coming until midnight. A lot of oil would have been consumed in the hours the young women waited for the bridegroom to arrive.

### Discuss:

- How are you with delays?
- What thoughts go through your mind when it seems like God is "late" or taking His time in answering your prayer?

### Wisdom

Joyce Meyer

*Wisdom is choosing to do now what we will be happy with later.*

Jesus divides the group of ten women into two groups: 5 that were wise and 5 that were foolish. We might think of them as prepared and not prepared, but the teaching of Jesus shows us that there is more to it: wise versus foolish.

We can compare this to our current world crisis and how we find ourselves coping with the stress and strain. Some people have been absolutely flattened emotionally and their hearts are full of fear.

The only way to be prepared for such a time as this is to live emotionally and spiritually prepared.

The wise were prepared  
The foolish were presumptuous

**They presumed He would come on time, as expected, as was probable and predictable...**

## Discuss:

- How do some people react when life does not work like they expect it to?
- Why do you think some people blame God when bad things happen to them?
- What have you learned that helps you see beyond the difficulty at hand?

## “Go ... buy for yourselves.”

*<sup>9</sup> 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.’ <sup>10</sup> And 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.*

The bridegroom was on his way, and the foolish women had run out of oil. They went into panic mode and appealed to the others to help them by sharing their oil. The wise were unwilling to share, not because they were stingy but because to do so would risk all ten of them running out of oil.

We can apply this thought to our own spiritual resources. All of us have access to the oil of the Holy Spirit. We each can come before God every day in prayer and ask for a fresh in-filling of the Spirit and the grace and help that we need. Yet, some do not “buy oil” out of their own personal relationship with Jesus and continually rely on others to help them regularly.

We need to regularly store up on the oil of the Holy Spirit. We cannot live out of meagre reserves, but rather we must live out of a surplus and abundance. We need plenty of oil to get through the long night.

## Discuss:

- What wise practices - emotional, spiritual, use of time are you finding helpful to having plenty of oil?
- What are some unwise practices?

## Christine Caine on Twitter:

*(Don't)...create new bad habits during the quarantine ... (extra snacking/hours of tv/more social media/alcohol/food consumption) ...it's extremely hard to break*

## Intimacy

How do we buy oil?

What currency do we use?

Oil is purchased through intimacy.

We buy oil with our affection and focus and fervent pursuit of the Bridegroom.

What you spend, is the time and effort it takes to be close to Him and close with Him.

During this National and Global crisis, let's not just:  
Survive let's thrive.

Not just exist but excel.

Not just **make it** but **take it** to a whole new level.

Let's not be consumed by loss but constrained by love.

Let's not be beat up but built up.

Let's not endure but endeavour to become more than we have ever been.

We do not get to choose the path that is in front of us right now. It's beyond our control.

**But what we do get to choose is our HEART.**

***Pro 4:23 NKJV***

*Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.*

***Pro 4:23 GNB***

*Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.*