

## ***LIVING ALERT – OIL IN THE KINGDOM***

### ***MATTHEW 25:1-13***

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It was a little over 18 years ago when I first heard a term that made absolutely no sense to me. At first I thought it was just another alarmist conspiracy kind of thing but I will never forget walking out of Riley Hospital and saw an entire office dedicated to deal with what we were told could become potential disaster - individually and collectively - the Y2K problem.

Now again reactions varied from preparation for all out anarchy - I had a Pastor friend who told me someone in his congregation had built an underground shelter and had a stock pile of beans and bullets! Many like myself took a more tempered approach to Y2K. We decided to have a reasonable stockpile of dried foods, water and alternate source of heat.

#### **Jan 1 2000 came and went without event! Not so much as a Hiccup!**

Nearly 8 years later I shared with someone that we had lived in the city limits for over 20 years and had never fully lost power for more than a couple of hours. Then on Dec 18th 2008 after hearing forecast for a severe ice storm I decided it might be a good idea to get the Kerosene heater out and make sure we had batteries...the storm came and went....and we were fine!

But about half way through the day.....we had been hearing cracking noises most of the morning.....it happened...we lost power.....for just shy of 5 full days in single digit temperatures....

I need to tell you that for those 5 days I was very thankful for flashlights and our little Kerosene heater! We prepared for the unexpected....but it took nearly 10 years before we actually needed it. But I must tell you that we have not forgotten how important it was to be prepared. Not with milk and bread but with the a plan to deal with an extended interruption.

You see there is a difference between being prepared and unprepared....the critical difference is one that could actually be life threatening.

In Matthew 25 Jesus speaks to His friends about **Living Alert in the Kingdom.**  
Read.

This parable while it is familiar it is also very challenging.....

Here is what I want you to see is that it is not just random - It this parable Jesus exposes the danger of Spiritual Passivity!

#### **At Midnight -**

- It does not matter how Big your lamp is....
- It does not matter how beautifully decorated it is...
- What matters at Midnight?
- Simple - Does it have oil!

Now before we look at the Parable I want to point out the setting of Matthew 25  
When? **We are midweek in the Week of Passion**

Matthew 21 begins the Week of Passion with the Triumphal Entry.

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*Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.*  
*Col 1:27b JB Phillips*

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- Jesus Cleanses the Temple and proclaims My house will be called a House of Prayer...
- He heals the sick and opens blind eyes...
- It intense - Its confrontational.....to the religious system of the day
- He retires at the end of the day to Bethany

### **Day 2**

- Jesus Returns to the Temple -
- He is challenged on His arrival
- *By what authority do you do these things? Matthew 21:23*
- He clearly proclaims Himself to be Messiah through a number of parables
- The religious establishment concludes - this man has to be removed!

### **Later Chapter 22**

- In attempt to corner Jesus into Heresy they ask:
  - *which is the Greatest commandment in the Law? Verse 36*
- Jesus in verses 37-40 quotes Dt 6:5
- *The first and foremost is Love for God and then He gives another to Love one another!*

### **Chapter 23**

- Just in case the religious establishment isn't offended Jesus speaks the 8 woes...
- Jesus ends Chapter 23 with this declaration that declaration of desolation over the temple!

### **Jesus turns and leaves the temple verse 39**

- Leaves never to return until He is invited
- For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say “ *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord*” .....now this is a powerful declaration....
- If you want to know why hell is at war against Israel?
- This declaration.....Jesus is not returning until He is invited by His people....

### **Chapter 24 - The disciples are trying to comprehend all of this....**

- Jesus invites them to look at the buildings and say '**oh by the way' this whole thing will be torn down.**
- Now Jesus is back outside Jerusalem...sitting on the Mount of Olives....likely Sunset and He is speaking to His inner circle....

### **They ask....**

- When is all this going to happen?
- What will the signs be?

### **What a great time for Jesus to begin to dictate the Late Great Planet Earth.....but He does not.....**

- In fact in Chapter 24-25 Jesus does NOT talk about when but rather WHAT.....
- As He sits with His friends **He seems to be emphasizing that this is what it will look like.....the WHAT.....**

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- Perilous Times.....
- Betrayal
- Hatred
- Fear
- Instability
- Deception
- False Prophets and Teachers.....

### **It will be a Dark day.....**

**What Jesus makes clear is not only What it will look like but WHAT it will do to the heart!**

Matt 24:12

***Because of the increase of lawlessness, the Love of most will grow cold!***

- **Matthew 24:37**  
*it will be like the Days of Noah.....*
- **Genesis 6:5-6**  
*...every intent of the thoughts of mans heart was only evil continually...that grieved the heart of God...*
- **Matthew 24:36-40**  
Living life ignoring God and living fully independent of Him!

**Chapter 24** ends with these simple exhortations:

- Verse 42 - *Therefore be on the Alert...*
- Verse 44 *You must be ready!*

**Chapter 25:1 – Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like....**What Jesus was describing the most

- Intense
- Midnight Hour
- the last time it was this dark God wiped out most of humanity

The atmosphere according to Jesus? **It will be Midnight.....**

- **It will be an hour that Faith and Love will be tested!**
- *Then the Kingdom = God's Presence on the Earth....will be like 10 virgins....*

**Why 10?**

- In Jewish tradition every major Jewish celebration is attended to by 10
- Now I want you to see this - Jesus is revealing 2 things in Matt 25:1-13

### **1 - The Kingdom**

- God has made a choice to work in Voluntary cooperation with man!
- What is God after? Voluntary Love beloved!

### **2 - It is Individual and Corporate**

- 10 virgins - God intends to reveal Himself to His people individually and coporately.
- They took their lamps

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### **Jesus clearly defined who is the Light**

- John 1
- John 8:12

### **Lamps**

- Vehicle to take light into the world = Ministry

### **The virgins went out to meet the Bridegroom**

- Jewish Tradition
- Wedding Ceremony
- began in the night - often around midnight
- Attended by friends who would light the way for the Bridegroom

### **Verse 2 describes - 5 who were foolish and 5 who were wise**

Verse 3 defines the foolish.....

- **They took no oil with them!**

### **Jesus in this parable drops a ‘strategic’ delay - that forced the issue of Oil**

- The Bridegroom does not come when they expected or even when it is convenient....
  - The Delay - they ALL grow drowsy and sleep
  - I want you to NOTE - Jesus did not describe a rebuke for them falling asleep...

### **Verse 6 - The Call comes - Horn.....**

- Single issue is forced.....the Issue of Oil
- Jesus makes clear it cannot be shared - **that it must be purchased...!**

### **This is critical - don’t miss this...**

- Those who were ready were ready NOT because of their Gifts or Strengths....but OIL

#### **The Foolish**

- Only had enough for a short time
- Enough for the next lesson...the next day....
- Its one thing to have enough oil for the next assignment.....
- They had run on low so long....it became their normal...

#### **You see its one thing to have enough oil for the next thing and quit another to have enough for the Long Night.....**

- The unexpected Crisis
- When Jesus seems long in coming
- When we have enough for the midnight...hour of life.

### **The Wise - simple - Took Oil**

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### **How did they get oil?**

- Choosing to say to NO to distractions in the moment and yes to what really mattered!
- They choose oil over a 'bigger' lamp
- They said yes to Oil over being known.....

### **Now let me say this...**

- I have lived long enough and done ministry long enough to stand before you confidently and say this....
- Biblically - Personally - Corporately.....for every person in this room
- **A Midnight hour is going to come in your life!**

**It the dark moments of life is NOT the time to get oil.....**

### **Rev 3:18 to the Church at Laodicia**

- *I advise you to buy from me Gold.....*

### **Get Oil!**

- What is Oil?
- Simple it is the Oil of Intimacy....
- Matthew 22:37 Love
- Matthew 24:12-13 Enduring Faith

### **How do we get Oil?**

- Jesus again made this clear - **The Open Secrets of the Secret Place that He said our Heavenly Father said He would reward!**
- **Reward?**
  - Gen 15:1 - I am your Great Reward!
  - A Heart that Loves Fully and Believes fully!

### **How do we Get Oil?**

- **A Lifestyle of that is marked by faith and Love - Matthew 6 Jesus described this as Giving, Forgiving, Prayer and Fasting and Pursuing the Kingdom!**
- The Oil of Faith and Love = Lifestyle

### **1 - Lifestyle of Giving**

- Matthew 6:2, 19-21
  - Giving to the poor - storing up treasure in Heaven.....
  - Giving reveals what we treasure at the heart level...
  - Its one of the places that we partner with God's heart of Justice for the poor, widow and orphan.

### **2. Lifestyle of Prayer ( Friendship )**

- As Jesus is cleansing the temple in Matthew 21 - He says the primary description of His House **My House will be a House of Prayer for all nations!**

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- John 1, 1 Peter 2:9, Rev 1
  - He bought us that we might be a Kingdom of Priests.
  - Those who live from the place of intimacy

**I want you to think about this - Jesus who has been raised up to the right hand of God...all things have been placed under His feet....who holds all things....**

- **He rules FROM the place of Heb 7:25 intercession!**  
*He ever lives to make intercession!*
- **Crazy isn't it?**
  - Jesus see's no separation from the prayer meeting and board meeting!
  - They are one and the same!

**The primary position by which He rules His government is from he place of intercession!**

**How do get Oil? Lifestyle of Giving - Prayer**

### **3. Lifestyle of Forgiveness**

30 years ago when I first started doing some Chaplaincy work - the director of the Chaplaincy dept of St. Joe hospital made a bold statement....

- **80-90% of sickness and surgery could be avoided by forgiveness!**

**The Oil of the Kingdom is the Oil of Forgiveness!**

- Forgiveness that began in the Fathers heart and we are invited into
- This is such a powerful message that Jesus tells the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18.....

**The Oil of the Kingdom is receiving the oil of forgiveness and extending it!**

- **Finally the Oil of the Kingdom - Giving - Forgiving - Prayer**

### **4. Lifestyle of Fasting**

Matthew 6:16-18

- Not that Jesus says not if - but *when you fast!*

**What is fasting?**

- Voluntary weakness
- Fasting confronts what is controlling us like nothing else.
- It gives opportunity to enlarge the hearts capacity to give and receive love.

**I can confidently prophecy over everyone of you today this reality -**

**I do not know the when Jesus will return - although I do believe we are living in that season!  
What I can tell you with assured confidence - YOU WILL face a midnight hour in your life!**

- **The time to get oil is now!**

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**Please hear this Jesus is not worried about the size of your ministry lamp...  
you see it doesn't matter if you don't have oil for the midnight hour!**

- How many more talented gifted leaders haven't to fall to prove that to us?

**Do you have Oil?**

- Your amazing 10 year old testimony will not matter at midnight....Do you have oil?
- **Beloved The real Oil of Intimacy will allow you to stand in Faith and Grow in Love  
IN THE FACE of complete Darkness!**
- This is not about another failed attempt to have devotions....

**This is about embracing a Matthew 6 Kingdom Lifestyle of:  
giving - forgiving - prayer and fasting....**

This is not the hour to say Rev 3

*“ I am rich and have become wealthy and have need of nothing. and you do not know that your  
are wretched, miserable, poor , blind and naked....*

verse 18

*I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire...*

**Beloved - Midnight is coming**

- Choose wisdom
- Choose to get oil
- Choose to get what no man or woman can get for you!

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