

# WISE UNTO SALVATION

(No. 1200 – 3/8/21 – DR Zoom Meeting)

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Wise and foolish virgins:

**Mat. 25:1-13:** <sup>1</sup>*At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.* <sup>2</sup>*Five of them were foolish and five were wise.* <sup>3</sup>***The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.*** <sup>4</sup>***The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.*** <sup>5</sup>*The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.* <sup>6</sup>*At midnight the cry rang out: "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!"* <sup>7</sup>*Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.* <sup>8</sup>*The foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out."* <sup>9</sup>*"No," they replied, "there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves."* <sup>10</sup>*But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The **virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet.** And the door was shut.* <sup>11</sup>*Later the others also came. "Sir! Sir!" they said. "Open the door for us!"* <sup>12</sup>*But he replied, "I tell you the truth, I don't know you."* <sup>13</sup>***Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.***

1. *All* did the following:
  - a) Went out to meet the Bridegroom
  - b) Took lamps
  - c) Fell asleep
  - d) Heard the midnight call and woke up
  - e) Trimmed their lamps
  - f) Came to the Marriage
2. Only **one difference**—the foolish had **NO OIL!**
3. The wise had oil and were ready/prepared

### B. We need to be **wise unto salvation**:

**2 Tim. 3:15-17:** <sup>15</sup>*And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you **wise for salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus.* <sup>16</sup>*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in*

righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be **thoroughly equipped** for every good work.

1. The wise were *ready* to meet the Bridegroom
2. The wise kept their vessels full of oil
3. The foolish were careless, unprepared, and lacked understanding about the importance of the oil
4. The Bridegroom shut the door on the foolish and told them, “I don’t know you.”

C. Let’s consider the spiritual application of the oil...

## II. THE OIL SIGNIFIES THE ANOINTING AND FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. *We* are the vessels/jars that need to be full of oil in order to shine and be ready for the Lord’s coming:

**2 Cor. 4:7:** *But we have this **treasure in jars of clay** to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*

- B. Throughout Scripture, olive oil was used for anointing kings, priests, and temples; New Testament believers are the true temple, kings and priests in the Kingdom of God:

**Rev. 1:6** (NKJV): [He] *has **made us kings and priests** to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

**1 Cor. 6:19:** *Do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit**, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.*

- C. Oil represents the anointing of the believer with the Spirit through the baptism in the Holy Spirit:

**2 Cor. 1:21-22:** <sup>21</sup>Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. **He anointed us**, <sup>22</sup>set His seal of ownership on us, and **put His Spirit in our hearts** as a deposit, **guaranteeing what is to come.**

- D. We must remain in the anointing—in other words, live and walk in Spirit:

**1 John 2:20, 27:** <sup>20</sup>*But you have an **anointing from the Holy One**, and all of you know the truth...* <sup>27</sup>*As for you, **the anointing you received from Him remains in you**, and you do*

not need anyone to teach you. But as **His anointing teaches you** about all things and as **that anointing is real**, not counterfeit--just as it has taught you, **remain in Him**.

- E. Wise believers drink of the Spirit rather than the “wine” of this world:

**John 7:37-39:** <sup>37</sup>*On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.* <sup>38</sup>*Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”* <sup>39</sup>*By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

**Eph. 5:15-20:** <sup>15</sup>*Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,* <sup>16</sup>*making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.* <sup>17</sup>*Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.* <sup>18</sup>*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit* [continuously]. <sup>19</sup>*Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,* <sup>20</sup>*always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**1 Cor. 12:13:** *For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.*

### III. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL PREPARE US FOR THE LORD'S COMING

- A. The Bride of Christ must be dressed and ready for her marriage to the Lamb of God:

**Rev. 19:6-8:** <sup>6</sup>*Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.* <sup>7</sup>*Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready.* <sup>8</sup>*Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.”* (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

1. Righteousness is the wedding garment!
2. NOTE: Although she made herself ready, the wedding garment was given to her (by God)

- B. The Holy Spirit is very much involved in preparing the Bride for Christ's coming:

**Rev. 22:17:** *The **Spirit and the bride** say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.*

- C. The Church must be sanctified and radiant in order to meet the Bridegroom:

**Eph. 5:25-27:** *<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to **make her holy**, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to Himself as a **radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.***

- D. There are **two laws**—the law of sin and death and the law of the Spirit—we must learn to be governed and controlled by the Holy Spirit:

**Rom. 8:2, 5-17:** *<sup>2</sup>Because through Christ Jesus the **law of the Spirit of life** set me free from the **law of sin and death**...*

*<sup>5</sup>Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind **controlled by the Spirit** is life and peace; <sup>7</sup>the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup>Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>You, however, are **controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit**, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ...*

*<sup>12</sup>Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but **if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,***

*<sup>14</sup>because those who are **led by the Spirit** of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup>The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup>Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and **co-heirs with Christ**, if*

*indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.*

- E. Live in the Spirit, not in the flesh:

**Gal. 5:16-25:** <sup>16</sup>*So I say, **live by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.* <sup>17</sup>*For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.* <sup>18</sup>*But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under law.* <sup>19</sup>*The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;* <sup>20</sup>*idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions* <sup>21</sup>*and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that **those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*** <sup>22</sup>*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* <sup>23</sup>*gentleness and **self-control**.* *Against such things there is no law.* <sup>24</sup>*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.* <sup>25</sup>***Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.***

- F. True holiness and sanctification can only come through the Holy Spirit:

**Rom. 15:16:** *To be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering **acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.***

**2 Thess. 2:13:** *But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be **saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit** and through belief in the truth.*

- G. Only the Holy Spirit can transform us into the glorious image of Christ:

**2 Cor. 3:17-18:** <sup>17</sup>*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.* <sup>18</sup>*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being **transformed into His likeness** with ever-increasing glory, **which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.***

## IV. THE STORY OF ESTHER

- A. Background: King Xerxes' (Ahasuerus) search for a new queen (bride)
- B. Hegai is a picture of the Holy Spirit—his job was to prepare Esther to be presented to the king:

**Esther 2:8-9:** <sup>8</sup>*When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many girls were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of **Hegai**. Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem.*

<sup>9</sup>*The **girl pleased him and won his favor**. Immediately **he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food**. He assigned to her seven maids selected from the king's palace and moved her and her maids into the best place in the harem.*

- 1. Esther pleased Hegai—we must please [not grieve—see Eph. 4:30] the Holy Spirit
  - 2. Hegai provided everything Esther needed to get ready to meet the king
- C. Hegai supervised an elaborate 12-month preparation for Esther:

**Esther 2:12-17:** <sup>12</sup>*Before a girl's turn came to go in to King Xerxes, she had to complete **twelve months of beauty treatments** prescribed for the women, six months with oil of myrrh and six with perfumes and cosmetics.* <sup>13</sup>*And this is how she would go to the king: **Anything she wanted was given her** to take with her from the harem to the king's palace.* <sup>14</sup>*In the evening she would go there and in the morning return to another part of the harem...*

<sup>15</sup>*When the turn came for **Esther**... to go to the king, she **asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested**. And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her.* <sup>16</sup>*She was taken to King Xerxes in the royal residence in the tenth month...* <sup>17</sup>*Now the king was attracted to **Esther** more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and **made her queen instead of Vashti**.*

- 1. The girls could ask for anything they wanted to prepare to meet the king

2. Esther asked for nothing—she trusted Hegai to give her what she needed
3. Hegai knew the king better than Esther did—the Holy Spirit knows the deep things of God!

**1 Cor. 2:10-11:** <sup>10</sup>*The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.* <sup>11</sup>*For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*

4. We need to surrender to the Holy Spirit—He knows better than we do how to get us ready for the coming of the Lord!

## V. SUMMARY

- A. We must be like the wise virgins who were ready to meet the Bridegroom—they had plenty of oil for their lamps
- B. We must be filled with the Holy Spirit every day in order to be ready when Christ returns
- C. It is the Holy Spirit's job to sanctify us and prepares us for the Wedding of the Lamb
- D. Practical steps:
  1. Receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8)
  2. Pray in the Spirit (1 Cor. 14; Jude 20)
  3. Drink of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; 1 Cor. 12:13)
  4. Listen to the Holy Spirit (Rev. 2 & 3)
  5. Obey the Holy Spirit's instructions—don't grieve Him

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*The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!"*

—Revelation 22:17—