

"Oil in Their Vessels"--Light in Darkness, Rain in Drought

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Thought Questions:

What is the Midnight Cry Oil?

How can we have it?

What does the shut door mean?

How do we enter into the wedding?

1 Characteristics from the Matt. 25:1-13 Story

(The lists are to be read independently. The side-by-side positions of the descriptions do not mean they are to be understood as opposites.)

	Wise		Foolish
4	took oil in their vessels with their lamps	3	took no oil with them
		8	lamps gone out
10	they that were ready went in with Him to the marriage	10	went to buy
		12	I say unto you, I know you not

2 "To Meet the Bridegroom" from Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 405-421

"... the experience of the church that shall live just before His second coming" 406.2

"The oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit." 406.3 "... that heavenly grace which alone can make His word a lamp to the feet and a light to the path." 408.1

"... as in the parable, so it is now. A time of waiting intervenes, faith is tried...." 408.2

"Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of His word is of no avail. The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. One may be familiar with the commands and promises of the Bible; but unless the Spirit of God sets the truth home, the character will not be transformed. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan." 408.3

414.2	Through the Holy Spirit, God's word is a light as it becomes a transforming power in the life of the receiver	411.1	They have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working
	By implanting in their hearts the principles of His word, the Holy Spirit develops in men the attributes of God		They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up
	The light of His glory--His character--is to shine forth in His followers		This class are represented also by the stony ground hearers
415.3	A message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power		They fail of assimilating the word's principles
	His character is to be made known		Its influence is not abiding
	Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth		They have been content with a superficial work
415.5	They are to say to the people, "Behold your God."		They do not know God

	<i>The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love</i>		<i>They have not studied His character</i>
	<i>The children of God are to manifest His glory</i>		<i>They have not held communion with Him</i>
	<i>In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them</i>		<i>They do not know how to trust</i>
416.1	<i>The light of the Sun of Righteousness is to shine forth in good works in words of truth and deeds of holiness</i>		<i>Their service to God degenerates into a form</i>

... Character is not transferable. No man can believe for another. No man can receive the Spirit for another. No man can impart to another the character which is the fruit of the Spirit's working. {COL 411.2} ➡

417.4	<i>Christ is abiding in us</i>	412.3	<i>They have not entered into fellowship with Christ</i>
	<i>The sealed fountains of earnest, Christlike love will be unsealed</i>		<i>They know not the language of heaven</i>
418.3	<i>The whole earth... is to be lighted with the knowledge of God's love</i>		<i>They are strangers to its joy</i>

Saddest of all words that ever fell on mortal ear are those words of doom, "I know you not." The fellowship of the Spirit, which you have slighted, could alone make you one with the joyous throng at the marriage feast. In that scene you cannot participate. Its light would fall on blinded eyes, its melody upon deaf ears. Its love and joy could awake no chord of gladness in the world-benumbed heart. You are shut out from heaven by your own unfitness for its companionship. {COL 413.1} ➡

In the great and measureless gift of the Holy Spirit are contained all of heaven's resources. It is not because of any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow earthward to men. If all were willing to receive, all would become filled with His Spirit. {COL 419.1} ←

The revelation of His own glory in the form of humanity will bring heaven so near to men that the beauty adorning the inner temple will be seen in every soul in whom the Saviour dwells. Men will be captivated by the glory of an abiding Christ. And in currents of praise and thanksgiving from the many souls thus won to God, glory will flow back to the great Giver. {COL 420.2} ←

To His faithful followers Christ has been a daily companion and familiar friend. They have lived in close contact, in constant communion with God. Upon them the glory of the Lord has risen. In them the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ has been reflected. Now they rejoice in the undimmed rays of the brightness and glory of the King in His majesty. They are prepared for the communion of heaven, for they have heaven in their hearts. {COL 420.3} ←

Observations:

At this judgment time, the door is shut to counterfeit spirits, to mixtures of truth and error. We must accept the genuine oil in our vessels, and enter into the wedding past the shut door.

Conclusion:

"Let it rain" = "go all the way"

Addendum to
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More Reflections on the Differences between the Wise and Foolish Virgins

It is the privilege of every soul to be a living channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ. There is nothing that Christ desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and character. There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love. All heaven is waiting for channels through which can be poured the holy oil to be a joy and blessing to human hearts. {COL 419.2}

Christ has made every provision that His church shall be a transformed body, illumined with the Light of the world, possessing the glory of Emmanuel. It is His purpose that every Christian shall be surrounded with a spiritual atmosphere of light and peace. He desires that we shall reveal His own joy in our lives. {COL 419.3}

The indwelling of the Spirit will be shown by the outflowing of heavenly love. The divine fullness will flow through the consecrated human agent, to be given forth to others. {COL 419.4}

At the crisis, the paths of the virgins diverged. When the foolish went to those who sell, the wise went with the Bridegroom. The point of divergence goes back to the difference in their supply of oil. And that difference in turn springs from *the choices* each made on how much oil to have.

A heart difference separates the two groups, and shows itself in outward differences. The foolish virgins do not have the supply of the Holy Spirit. But this lack is not due to God's choice. He is not partial. He has impartially given the Spirit to all, at least in a beginning sense. His Spirit is in and accompanies His Word, and He has given that to all. "Their sound went into all the earth." (Rom. 10:18). He is also impartial in His willingness to give His Spirit in His fullness to all. *Their heart choices have made the difference*, in refusing the Spirit permission to carry on His work, to complete what He has begun (as the stony-ground parable shows).

Because of these choices "they do not know God," and do not hold "communion with Him" (both terms of heart intimacy). "Therefore they do not know how to trust..." Having withheld their heart from full surrender, they have not the faith that rests fully in Him. Their outward actions are superficial. They come, sit, and hear the Word, but do not *do* the Word. This is because their love for the Word and for God is only as deep as their mouth. They can only "*with their mouth ... show much love.*" There is no heart love for God, because their heart loves themselves.

The root heart difference is thus seen to be the response they have made to God's love. God's love is impartial and universal. Their response was partial and superficial. They lacked the faith and love which comes from Spirit and fills the heart that welcomes Him with open arms and full submission. *And from this deficit, from this heart problem, all the outward evidences flow.*

The foolish ones do not do what they ought, because they do not love and believe what they ought. They love and believe themselves more than God. Self has been deified. Their initial response to God gave them the trappings of godliness, but their further rejection of Him kept the heart of godliness away from them. Thus they have the form of godliness but deny its power, for the heart contains the power of it.

The Holy Spirit's dwelling in a transformed carnal heart is the mystery of Godliness. The foolish have rejected the faith and love which God poured out upon them. They are destitute of that gold tried in

the fire. And so they are both blind and naked still. They are Laodicea that has kept Him outside the door.

Behold *them* now outside the door! Are they not destitute? Are they not shut out from seeing what they had professed to long for but in heart had rejected? Are they not now standing naked and unprepared, ashamed of their unfitness?

What oil had they purchased at the sellers after the marriage began? It was not the oil of the Bridegroom. Another spirit had finally filled their vessels. And that spirit the Bridegroom does not know. He certainly recognizes it, but it is not His spirit, and He cannot, He will not have communion with it. It forever will be excluded from His presence.

There is a "peace," a "safety" that is a deception. There is an "assurance" and a "security" that is groundless and make-believe. It is not enough to have a feeling of peace and acceptance. We must know Him who is our peace, who does accept us. And we must turn in our hearts from all that He plainly says destroys peace and which He will not accept.

The work is a personal work. Each must believe. What is there to believe? --the truth of God's love which has been shown in contrast to sin. Each must receive. What is there to receive? --the Spirit which has been given. And out of that believing and receiving will grow "the fruit of the Spirit's working," a character that will honor God, that will reflect His image again. Each must receive, accept, and cherish the grace which God freely offered and poured out in behalf of all. He is our safety and security, our faith and our sustenance, the current and eternal answer to our souls' need.

The fruit not only flows from what is inside; it is judged by what is inside. The outward profession of "doing God's service" is seen in both classes. But the prioritization Christ gave (Matt. 7:21-27, in the next table) helps us to see deeper than the "doing." We must not only say; we must do. We must not only hear; we must do. *But we must not only do; we must know.*

In contrast to the outward evidences of what the foolish lack inside, is the reality of what is seen in the wise. "United to God *by faith*," with hearts into which "the golden oil *of love* flows freely," they show forth God's glory, His character, "in good works, in real, heartfelt service for God." It is real and it is heartfelt. Self is crucified, for love and faith have their focus on God and others. And instead of saying, "Lord, haven't *we* done this in Your name," they will be saying, "Lord, when did *we* do this for You?"

The times we face will show two things. As things get worse, and iniquity abounds, we will manifest "whether there is any real faith." Such trials will purify real faith and make it shine with new luster. And the increasing evil will also call more strongly for "a revelation of His character of love." While the love of many is waxing cold, the love of His remnant will be warmed to new life and vigor by the demands of the time. Realizing that only by good is evil overcome, the wise ones will deal with sin as God Himself has. This display of genuine faith and love, as beautiful and lasting as gold tried in the fire, will blaze "into the darkness of the world" at midnight, and will show "the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth."

Let us partake of God's Spirit now, unreservedly, wholeheartedly.