

're-thinking' some of the parables ... No.12/7 of 11

'IT'S JUST PAST MIDNIGHT' parable - Part 7

READY TO ENTER? - Matthew 25's account of the ten virgins

Midnight in this instance is linked with the Kingdom of God. A preparation is necessary for the arrival of the Bridegroom and **all ten** virgins know it. The occasion described will separate 'the called' into two groups. The ones labeled *wise* moved into using the provided means and were fully prepared while the ones labeled *foolish*, did not see any urgency to be thus equipped and prepared, therefore ready like the others. Five being the number of *grace* in the word, we see that both groups operated under grace. Oil here represents the truly anointed word of God that is ours' as we are teachable and thus hear what the Spirit is saying in this day. [It is difficult to receive here that the oil speaks of the Holy Spirit, as we cannot buy or work for His anointing or presence in us — He is freely given. However we are exhorted to *buy the truth and sell it not*. **Midnight begins the unveiling of the bridegroom**. Those who are fully ready, anticipating His appearing will be in the right place at the right time. They were all able to recognize the bridegroom with just a little light in the darkness that surrounded them. ['darkness' speaks of ignorance]. *The entrance of thy word brings light*. Could you recognize the Bridegroom in similar circumstances?

The foolish five wanted also to meet the bridegroom but with insufficient (en)light(enment), missed that midnight meeting as they were rushing to play 'catch-up'. After some delay, they too were fully equipped. They had finally made themselves ready but missed the initial (first contact) meeting with him. They had to remain in the darkness outside to meet him in the morning. The morning or later experience of being face to face with the bridegroom is still a part of the Kingdom of Heaven coming forth — as the word declares that **the Kingdom of Heaven is likened to ten virgins and not just the five wise!**

The full preparation of the wise was that they had a double portion of oil; the double portion allocated to the firstborn. Knowing Him, the Bridegroom, comes by revelation which the apostle Paul longed for when he prayed, '*O that I might know Him and . . .*'

Could the Bridegroom, at this midnight hour, be the many-membered, matured son with Christ-Jesus as the Head? Wise virgins — double portioned and untouched by traditions — could they have known what it would be like to go into that marriage with Him? Probably not! It would have been a walk of faith having obeyed the previous word about being ready. So are you inside or outside the house at **midnight** or just after? According to the extent of your discipline and the acceptance of His revelations to you, you will be seen to move more confidently even though you can still get tired!