

Announcements

- We will begin preparing updates for the phone list. We would like to update the phone list twice a year. Please check if your phone numbers and home address are up to date.
- The ushers will meet today after the meeting for prayer and fellowship, lunch will be provided.
- We will continue our ministry reading from the Ministry Digest from section 2 "On Knowing the Bible", covering the chapter, "The Translation of the Bible"
- You can subscribe to the Ministry Digest at:
<https://www.lsm.org/ministry-digest/index.html>
- We have started an English-speaking new believers meeting starting today during the prophesying meeting on the 3rd floor. Newer believers are encouraged to join; we will cover important foundational matters.
- The dates of the Summer School of Truth are Saturday (8/10) - Monday (8/12) in Bellevue, and Friday (8/16) - Lord's day (8/18) in Seattle.
- Any saints who can serve with SST (host dinners, provide hospitality, small groups, etc.) should sign up at this link:
<https://www.cognitofirms.com/Churchinbellevue1/2019SSTSERVING>
- We are continuing with week 8 in the Holy Word for Morning Revival on The Development of the Kingdom of God in the Christian Life and the Church Life.

Burdens for Prayer

- London Training Center
- Germany
- Meeting hall modifications (parking permit)
- College-age perfecting (Ethiopia)
- Everett
- Willie and Rosalind in Houston

This Week: July 29 – August 4		
Morning Revival: <i>The Development of the Kingdom of God in the Christian Life and the Church Life, week 8</i>		
Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Korean saints Upstairs – Overlake		
Saturday	8:30am	Breakfast
Lord's Day	9:30am	Lord's Table
August		
10-12, 17-19	Bellevue Summer School of Truth	

LIFE-STUDY OF MATTHEW

Message 65

PROPHECY OF THE KINGDOM (5)

D. Parable for Faithfulness

Having covered the parable for watchfulness (25:1-13), we proceed in this message to the parable for faithfulness (25:14-30). The parable of the virgins is for watchfulness, but the parable of the talents is for faithfulness.

When we were on chapter twenty-four, we pointed out that concerning the believers, there are two aspects: the aspect of watchfulness and readiness and the aspect of faithfulness and prudence. The believers have these two aspects because they have a dual status. The first aspect of this dual status is related to life, and the second aspect is related to service. No Christian should neglect these two aspects; rather, we must pay the proper attention to both, becoming proper in life and in service. Regarding life, we are virgins; regarding service, we are slaves. This means that in watchfulness we are virgins. This relates to what we are. But in faithfulness we are slaves. This relates to what we do.

Although we may like the term “virgins,” we may not like hearing that we are slaves. Nevertheless, we are not only virgins, but also slaves. To the virgins, the Lord is the Bridegroom, but to the slaves, He is the Master. Thus, not only we have a dual status, but the Lord also has a dual status. On the one hand, He is our pleasant Bridegroom and, on

the other, our strict Master. Sometimes He is very pleasant with us, but at other times He deals with us in a strict way.

The virgins need something inward—the inward filling of the oil in the vessel. The slaves, however, need something outward—the spiritual talent. The infilling of the Holy Spirit is inward, but the talent, the spiritual gift, is outward. As vessels we need the oil inwardly, and as slaves we need the talents outwardly.

The oil that fills the vessel reaches the very bottom of the vessel. It is from within that the renewing of our being takes place, and it is from within that transformation transpires. There is a great lack of this inward working among Christians today. Rather, many Christians are striving to improve their outward appearance in order to make a show. Religion is concerned with outward show, but God's grace in the infilling of the Holy Spirit gets into us and transforms us from within. The inward oil is very different from outward makeup. Makeup changes our complexion immediately. But God's way is that we drink of the Spirit and let the Spirit saturate our being. Then our appearance will change from within. For example, I eat and drink well, and nourishing food saturates my being. This gives me a healthy complexion.

The fact that we need to be renewed from within does not mean that we do not need outward activities. The one who received five talents traded with them diligently and gained another five talents. This indicates that we need both the inward renewing and the outward service, the inward growth and the outward actions. We need to be deeply impressed with this principle. Regarding the aspect of life, we need to be renewed from within, and regarding the aspect of service, we need to be very active outwardly. Sometimes we may be so active outwardly that we neglect the inward renewing. But at other times we may care so much for the inner life that we do not work adequately. To be like this is to be an unturned cake (Hosea 7:8). On one side we are burned to charcoal, and on the other side we are raw. Neither side is good for eating. We need to be a turned cake. If we work too much, the Lord will tell us to rest. But if we rest too much, the Lord will tell us to work.

Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes

Lord's Day, July 29 th	Heb 9:5-14
Monday, July 30 th	Heb 9:15-28
Tuesday, July 31 st	Heb 10:1-18
Wednesday, August 1 st	Heb 10:19-28
Thursday, August 2 nd	Heb 10:29-39
Friday, August 3 rd	Heb 11:1-6
Saturday, August 4 th	Heb 11:7-19