

I. Introduction

- A. Every time I prayed and asked the Lord what He wanted me to speak on, I heard Matthew 25:1-13. There is a need in this hour to have oil in our lamps. The oil for our lamp is free—but it requires our time and effort to obtain. The oil is the oil of intimacy. Oil is having a heart that is alive. In this season, Jesus is raising up John the Baptists, those who are burning and shining lamps and will be a voice. God is raising up those who will have a voice, not an echo. They will be a lamp post showing the way—like, John the Baptist...
1. *"He was the **burning and shining lamp...**" John 5:35*
 2. *"In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, **Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!**" - Matthew 3:1-2 (NKJV)*
- B. Cultivating intimacy with Jesus is about creating a depth of, a wellspring (abundance) of, friendship with our Lord. Where His voice is the voice that is cultivated.
- C. The five wise virgins had taken the time to cultivate that depth of intimacy, even when it was not popular. People thought they were crazy, thinking that there was no need to be so radical.
- D. In Luke 10:42, Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet *Hearing His words*. Martha wanted Jesus to tell her sister, Mary, to help. But Jesus said, Mary is choosing the good part. That is what the five wise women did, they chose the good part and sat with Jesus and created a depth of intimacy in the Lord. The five unwise women did not create that intimacy with Jesus. So when the Bridegroom returned, they wanted some of the wise women's oil. But the five wise women pointed them back to those who would sell oil. Why? Because they knew, they would not trade their inheritance for anything.
- E. Having depth with Jesus is everything. When you are in a rough season, the truth will help you and your house will not fall—because you built it on Jesus. In a storm two things can happen to your house—it will stand or it will fall.
1. In a hard season, you can let the roughness of the season guide you away from the Lord and become bitter (a house built on sand). Or, let the Spirit of Truth guide you through the storm (house built on the Rock) Matthew 7.
 2. The same in thing can happen in a joy-filled season. The temptation will be to relax from pressing in for more. It is in the bliss of that season where we also have opportunity to continually go deeper in Jesus.
 3. *"However, when He, **the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.**" John 16:13 (NKJV)*
- F. That is what made John the Baptist a burning and shining lamp. He chose the good part, to go after the Lord. The life he lived was opposite of his generation. He was a burning and shining lamp in his generation because he created a depth with the Lord.

1. "He was **the burning and shining lamp...**" John 5:35

G. Creating a depth in Jesus looks different for each person. I am going to give you three things that will help you on your journey with the Lord – 1) The Word, 2) Prayer and Worship, 3) Community.

II. The Word

A. Reading the word is so important. It is like logs being put on a fire.

B. The Word of God is God breathed, it is Word given by the Living God. It gives us direction, correction, and instruction in righteousness.

1. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

C. The scripture is Word of life. When Jesus talked to the crowd in John 6 saying, 'His flesh was food, and His blood was eternal life'. The disciples that were following Him didn't understand because their bellies were full. But, Peter understood that Jesus had the Words of Life.

1. "...however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks"—John 6:23 (NKJV)

2. "But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."—John 6:68 (NKJV)

D. The Word has the power to light our path.

1. "Your word is a lamp to my feet. And a light to my path." Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

III. Prayer and Worship

A. Prayer and worship are powerful weapons. Mix them with Word and...WOW, look out! Our weapons are not carnal but powerful in Christ Jesus.

1. "For the **weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God** for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled" 2 Corinthians 10:4-6 (NKJV)

B. Prayer is the place where we get to know the heart of Jesus. In other words, prayer is talking to Jesus, the place where we get to hear His heart. It is in that place of prayer where we can bring the Word back to Jesus, and also talk to Him about His word.

C. When we talk to Jesus about His word, He shares with us what it means and leads us in truth. When He shares about His word, it is revelation to our heart—transforming our heart and mind.

1. Jesus said to the Pharisees— "You search the Scriptures, for in them **you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not**

willing to come to Me that you may have life. “John 5:39-40 (NKJV)

2. Jesus wasn't saying that studying the scripture was bad, but in kindness, Jesus was redirecting their thinking.
 3. *...You have the words of eternal life. John 6:68*
- D. Out of everything that Jesus did—healing the sick, preaching, and prophesying—the one thing that they asked of Jesus was to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1).
- E. Prayer helps us get to know Jesus. As we get to know Him, we get to know who we are in Him. It's in prayer that we realize that He is a relational God and He loves to have relationship with us. This is why prayer is vital in creating a depth in Jesus. When He speaks to us, it goes deep. It is in the place of prayer where we get to know Him.
1. ***“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”*** John 17:3 (NKJV)
- F. When Jesus speaks, and gives the human heart revelation, it turns into worship. You want to give Him everything.
- G. Worship is more than the words we sing, though that is important. We worship Jesus with our actions, attention, and words.
1. *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”* Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

IV. Community of God

- A. It is a powerful moment when we gather and worship Jesus. You can feel the Spirit of God.
- B. Paul talks about the importance of needing each other in the body.
1. *“And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. **And if they were all one member, where would the body be?** But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. **And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one***

member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 1 Corinthians 12:15-26 (NKJV)

- C. We can learn from each other because through them the Lord gives insight that we may not see otherwise. It helps when we see others on fire for Jesus.
 - 1. *“And let us consider one another **in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”* Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV)
- D. Being in community helps and shapes us. Proverbs says, in the midst of counsel there is wisdom. That is important because if we keep trying to do it on our own, it can get real funky, leading us into what we think is right.
 - 1. *“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”* Proverbs 11:14 (NKJV)

V. Conclusion

- A. These disciplines will help us cultivate a richness with Jesus. We will have a depth in Jesus and be a like a person who is wise on this side of eternity.
- B. It is the person who is deep in the Word, prayer, worship, etc. that creates a heart that is deeply rooted in the love of Christ and has a rich relationship with Jesus.
- C. God is raising up John the Baptists who are burning and shining lamps and who will be a voice in this season.