



Prayer Focus by Christianna Schreifels

March 25-March 31st, 2024

The oil in our lamps and those without it in theirs

As I sought the Lord for our prayer focus this weekend, the word, “oil,” was what I heard.

We are aware of the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew. My attention was drawn to these words in chapter 25, verse 1, **“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.”**

Immediately the Lord had me pay attention to the first part of that verse-this fact right now- there are two distinct Christians:

- a.) the ones who have a lamp that is empty, appear to be well and are in God’s kingdom. They lack what is needed to burn and stay lit and warm and because there is no light they have lost their way and will not endure until the return of Christ. They are not equipped for the long haul and may also lead others astray along the way since their lamp cannot light their way. Perhaps they fell asleep (died) because they could not be kept warm in the cold, dark world- this can imply they died, spiritually.
- b.) the ones who have a lamp that is filled and have what is needed to burn - stay lit and are kept warm. They can see the path in this dark world. These are equipped to find their way and are ready for Christ’s return. These will also light the way for others in the darkness to find their way to Christ.

As I heard this- I began to weep because of those I love who know Christ and have become cold and have lost their way on this arduous journey we are familiar with. I felt a deep urgency for us to focus our prayers on our loved ones who have become cold and indifferent to the Lord in the kingdom of heaven. These beautiful ones are in church, do Christian things and profess Christ but we have seen, discerned, that they are far off from their first Love, Jesus, and possibly keep them near to warm them, to show the pathway back to Christ. Do not tire, do not give up and become indifferent or judgmental of them and give up hope.

Prayer points:

- 1.) Pray, fast if we must, for the loved ones we know who are lukewarm or have gone cold to the Lord. They clearly cannot obtain our oil, they must pay the cost for their own.

- 2.) Pray for wisdom and that we use our words less unless we are to speak to them about this topic. Confront in love, if the Holy Spirit leads us to. We know we are not to strive or cause strife or division but to be the salt and the light of the world. Let us each do what we are directed to by the Lord regarding this manner.

- 3.) Pray, anoint - our homes, the regions and our state- I am reminded that the strongholds in the region are influencing our loved ones that struggle so we continue to pray accordingly and corporately so we are not addressing any regional principality on our own.

Scriptures:

Matthew 5:13-16 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. 14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 25:1-5 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.1 **Thessalonians 5:16-18** 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Song:

[Resurrender \(Lyric Video\) - Hillsong Worship](#)