

## **Minister's Conference 2011**

**Tuesday 8/3/11**

### **Rev Timothy Keep – Fresh oil**

In Matthew 25: 1-13, we read about the five wise virgins and the five foolish virgins. There is a danger that pastors can experience a spiritual leakage. We think if we do spiritual things like sing spiritual songs, do spiritual duties then we are spiritual. We need to wake up to see that we are dry and empty. My father took us fishing in a leaking boat and we had to fish and bail out the boat or the boat would have sunk. As pastors we need to fish and tend to our vessels or we will lose our desire for spiritual things. In a busy life there is a danger that we lose the hunger for the word of God and His presence. Temptations grow and the melody of life is lost in the noise of life and our love for the family of God and the Lord Jesus grows cold if our vessels have become empty. Another sign is that we make decisions in fear and not in faith. Paul said to Timothy that he should stir up the gift of God in him because the Lord gives a Spirit of power, love and a sound mind. If you make decisions in fear then you are in need of oil.

What makes some wise and others foolish in God's sight; some to go to heaven and others to hell? There are many similarities in both groups. All of them had a conversion and lamps. All fell asleep and had a desire to meet the bridegroom. Not one wanted to miss the marriage banquet but there was one difference that is a solemn warning to us. The wise trimmed their lamps and kept them full whereas the foolish were dry and didn't even realize it till they heard the cry of the bridegroom and didn't have enough grace to meet Him. Some Christians are so entangled in this present world, that they do not have enough grace to rise.

The supply of oil represents the inward grace that distinguishes the wise. It is the Spirit of the Lord Jesus that points us to the Lord Jesus and leads us to peace, power, comfort, self-control and love. The fullness of the Holy Spirit makes us to love Him. The Spirit is the enduring quality in a pastor's life.

It is important to keep the oil which represents the inward presence of the Holy Spirit that strengthens and satisfies a man. It is an endless supply of comfort and joy and must be maintained. In Zachariah 4: 1-7 Zerubbabel was discouraged. He faced the difficulties of wanting to finish the house of God. The people were indifferent, fearful, critical and there was disunity. God sent the prophet who said "What do you see?" There was a candlestick of gold with seven lamps with plates and two olive trees on the left and the right. What was the Lord saying? He was saying that it was not by might or power but by His Spirit that the house would be finished. The olive trees supplied the oil for the bowls of the candlesticks that would then burn. God said to Zerubbabel that this how the task would be accomplished – by the power of the Holy Spirit and that He would give you an inexhaustible supply of oil. The king thought of methods but it wasn't the answer. The answer was a person, the Holy Spirit. Therefore we need to depend on the Lord so that we won't run dry. The Lord sanctifies as we read in Exodus 40 v 9, 34 and 35. God wants to dwell in the midst of His people. The tabernacle was in the centre of the Israelite camp. When God is in the centre of our lives, He can lead us. Before God could lead them, everything had to be sanctified. The oil had to be mixed with blood. In Exodus 30v32, it says that it was not to be poured onto man's flesh which indicates that the carnal man cannot receive the Holy Spirit. As pastors, have our eyes, ears and feet been sanctified? If so you will hear the Bridegroom come.

The oil illuminates. The children of Israel had to bring oil for the lamps to burn. The Holy Spirit gives us insight and wisdom and anoints ordinary men. In Exodus 29 v7, Samuel anointed David even though his brothers seemed more capable than him. Some leaders depend on gifts, stature and the opinion of men and not on the Holy Spirit. All we need is the oil as it is written in Luke 4 v 18. I don't want to preach or counsel without the oil. Ezekiel preached to dry bones and it became a vast army. Then He preached to the wind and then only the army lived. We need the Wind of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus breathed on His disciples, it was a symbol of the Holy Spirit. This oil is also the joy of the Lord. In Psalm 45 v7, if you love righteousness and hate wickedness, then you will have gladness. Pastors need to replenish their oil and not just be a candle that burns and is depleted. A neighbor had a sick wife who had Alzheimers. He care for her with joy, even though it was very difficult. Rev Keep's little boy had cancer in his eyes. When the little boy lost his eyes, the child full of anger. His parents cried to God that He would heal their child's heart. The child changed and said " I can't see, but it's OK because I'll see in heaven." God can heal a heart. Pastors need to be filled with the oil of the Holy Spirit.