

Dying Lamps

(Journals)

"Our lamps are going out"
Matt. 25:11

you will recognize this verse a coming from the story of the five wise and five foolish virgins

A wedding was involved - all the virgins knew about the wedding - they did not know the exact hour. They all had lamps - saw the bridegroom. They all wanted to be at the wedding they all planned to go.

Most every body likes to attend weddings you do not have to shlep much to get a crowd at a funeral.

Jesus said that the Kingdom of heaven is like that - The Lord is coming - there is to be a wedding between Him and His church. Those that watch and are ready will go in but to those not ready the door will be shut.

Did you ever have a door shut in your face? I did - and the people went out at the back door and ran away. I just decided that they had decided that I was not to come into that house.

The authorized version reads - "our lamps have gone out" but Revised version says "our lamps are going out"

The lamps did not go out suddenly - you have seen an oil lamp go out have you not? They awoke to the fact that their lights were going out but awoke too late - to awake too late brings all sorts of home -

1. Child dies because parents are too late getting medical aid.
2. you may miss an important suggestion by getting to him too late
3. you may run into an open bridge by seeing danger too late - there is a line that marks the last time - what you can do a thing -

you know the old words of tongue or pen are "that it might have been"

We feel that we may profit by studying some what carefully the words used here by Jesus - especially - "oil" & "lamps"

(did you ever see an oil lamp?)

The O.T. symbolism is our best guide as to the significance of oil - through out the O.T. oil is used to symbolize the divine influences that come down on men appointed by God to their various functions in life - and are traced to the Spirit of God.

3
So the priests were set apart by the
anointing with the holy oil —
the very word "mesiah" means the
"anointed" —

Zechariah's vision — golden
lamp stand with seven lamps
on either side of it was an olive
tree from which oil flowed through
golden pipes to feed the flames.

Now what about the lamp? It is that
fed by the oil — It is the spiritual life
of the individual which is nourished
and made visible to the world as light.
And that light shines and continues
to shine by the continual commun-
ication from God of these hallowing in-
fluences —

The O.T. lamp was a symbol of all
Israel receiving the influence
from God — It shined first from
the Tabernacle out over the desert
and then from the Temple — the
Mt. of the Lord's House — more prom-
inence was given to national Rel.
than to individual Rel.

The N.T. picture of the ten virgins
who represent the collective church
each one has her own lamp —
"ye are lights in the world holding
forth the word of life."

So the lamp is the Christian life, sus-
tained by the continual communica-
tion of the influences of the
Holy Spirit -

Now you may have a nice lamp and
it full of oil - and no light - I think
faith lights the flame -

All right - all good lamp - all good lights
but in fine cases the lights gradually
went out - white & blue -

Spiritual emotions and spiritual
vitality like all emotions and vi-
tality die unless nourished -

It was the fault of the lamp
bearers that the lights failed -
and not those at source of oil supply

The going out of the lamps was
brought about by doing nothing
If you do not believe your light
will go out just come doing any
thing for the church -

The only way to keep your lights
burning is to keep close to Jesus
and let Him pour His sweetness
in to your open hearts -

We can not give our oil to
others -

The dying out of the flame
may come so gradually that
we will hardly discover it
So let your lotus be gilt about
and your lights burning - and
ye yourselves like saints men
that wait for their Lord -

Keep close to Christ - watch and pray -
stay pure and your light will
shine =

The picked over garments -
Handled an one current
Handled more an another counter of floor
Same ones, unsailed hung -
Cabinets

