Where are you - part 2?

A message delivered to
MAYER COMMUNITY CHURCH

June 6, 1999

TITLE: Where are you - part 2?

TEXT: Matthew 25:1-13

THEME: Preparing to meet God

THRUST: Are we really prepared?

INTRODUCTION:

Late Friday afternoon,
Chuck Kidder got up from a nap, walked into the bathroom
and from there into the presence of the Lord.
When I arrived at the house,
Lifeline paramedics were working to try to revive him.
For well over an hour, from the time they first arrived
until a Doctor examined him at the VA,
those paramedics worked feverishly but without success.
That lack of success was due to the fact
that Chuck had an appointment – so do you and I.

For the past few weeks,
we have been considering a series of questions
that have been posed to help us gain insight
into our present covenant relationship with Jesus.

Those questions have also given us insight into
the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church
and in our lives as individuals.

Those questions have also been asked
to help prepare us for God's presence,
both now and when we step into eternity.

- **What are you?**
  Facing up to being what we are called
  Christians - anointed by God's Spirit
- **What are you doing?**
  Forcing us to look at our service as Christians
  Service that is empowered by the Holy Spirit

Two weeks ago we asked:

- **Where are you?**
  Focusing on the truth that we *must* be
  continually filled with His Spirit
  in order to prepared for His presence.

In fact, the whole focus of this ministry in the past few years
is with that preparation in view.
So, I feel compelled,

in the light of this past week, to ask you again,

Where are you?

Where are you in your walk with God?

Are you prepared, right now, to meet him?

We live under the false illusion that we have lots of time.

The Bible says that the wise Christian is one who is,

"Redeeming the time because the days are evil!"

That scripture is in the context

of the Scripture we were discussing

in our answer to the question, "Where are you?"

Let me refresh your memory:

Eph 5:15-18 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, **16** making the most of your time, because the days are evil. **17** So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled~! with the Spirit, (NAS)

Where are you? Are you ready?

King David, in setting aside materials

for the building of the Temple said,

"I have prepared with all my might

for the house of my God..." (1 Chron. 29:2).

We recognize that David was referring to physical things,

but we should also recognize

that the physical of the Old Testament

is a picture of the Spiritual in the New Testament.

What kind of preparation have we made for God's presence?

The Prophet Amos, in speaking to Israel, Judah and Jerusalem

recounted all the things God had done

to try to draw His people to Himself,

and to prepare them for His presence.

Amos uttered those famous words:

"Prepare to meet your God...." (Amos 4:12).

Matthew 25:1-13

The whole purpose of this parable is summed up in **v.13**

"Be on the alert~! then, for you do not know the day nor the hour."

How were these expected to *be on the alert*?

By making sure that their relationship with the bridegroom

was up to date!

Their relationship with the bridegroom was kept up to date

by making sure that their *vessels* had enough oil.

Oil is representative of the Holy Spirit

Vessels are representative of us!

1 Cor 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in

you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? [20] For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

The Apostle Paul tells us that we need to possess our vessels
in sanctification and honor.
Sanctification is holiness.
You can't get any holier than the holiness that is brought by the Holy Spirit.
This Parable that Jesus taught on the Kingdom of Heaven
stated that five of those virgins had no oil in their vessels!
They thought the initial dipping of their torch in oil
would be sufficient!
In other words – they were not prepared!
They allowed to happen what Paul warned against ...
"Quench not the Spirit." Don't let the fire go out!
When we speak of an individual who is on fire for God
we are speaking of a person who has zeal,
excitement, and passion for God
and for the things and people of God.
Don't let the fire go out!
If there is no fire – if the coals are cool;
that is a good indication that we need revival,
These five *without* oil also expected those that *were* prepared
to help them out.
The Holy Spirit is not transferrable!
Go back to the individuals who sold you
on the fact that you have enough.
We do not have enough unless the vessel is ***full***;
and, is ***being filled*** continuously!
What's in your vessel?
Hebrews 2:9 John 19:29
Hyssop: A plant used in purification and cleansing of lepers.
Leprosy is a type of sin.
"He who knew no sin, became sin for us...."
Vinegar: Sour and bitter wine.
Some individuals have a sour countenance.
Others have bitterness.
Jesus tasted of those elements of death
so that you wouldn't have to.
At the foot of the cross of Jesus was a vessel *full of vinegar*!
What is your vessel filled with?
The oil of the Holy Spirit?
Or things that set your teeth on edge!

We desperately *need* the Holy Spirit to keep us aflame for God!
We definitely *need* the Holy Spirit
to keep us prepared to meet our God!
Would you use this hymn as your prayer this morning?

CONCLUSION:

"*Search Me, O God"* James E. Orr ~1936

1.
Search me, O God, and know my heart today,
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray;
See if there be some wicked way in me;
Cleanse me from every sin, and set me free.

2.
I praise Thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;
Fulfill Thy word and make me pure within;
Fill me with fire, where once I burned with shame;
Grant my desire to magnify Thy name.

3.
Lord, take my life, and make it wholly Thine;
Fill my poor heart with Thy great love divine;
Take all my will, my passion, self and pride;
I now surrender, Lord, in me abide.

4.
O Holy Ghost, revival comes from Thee;
Send a revival, start the work in me;
Thy Word declares Thou wilt supply our need;
For blessings now, O Lord, I humbly plead.