



Henry Vanderbush

## ARE YOU READY FOR THE MIDNIGHT CRY?

If there ever was a day we need to be ready for the coming of the Lord, it's today! It's time we loosen our grip on the things of this world and lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven.

It seems there is troubled all over. Forces that are not of God are pushing us steadily to a one-world conflict. I believe we are living in the closing moments of this day and age. Prophecy is being fulfilled right before our eyes. Matthew 24 and Luke 21 are two chapters that describe what the world will be like before the coming of our Lord. But today, I want us to look at Matthew 25:1-13 where Jesus gives us the parable of the ten virgins.

“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And at midnight, there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.”

The second coming of Christ is not a matter of speculation or controversy. It is the gospel truth. There is no assurance in the world that is more inspiring and uplifting than to know that Jesus is coming again.

In this portion of scripture, the first thing we find is that it was a SUDDEN CRY. The stillness of night was shattered by this sudden cry. The parable of the virgins is a picture of the church. It's not a picture of the sinner. The cry was made at midnight, the darkest hour of the night. We are living in the midnight hour of this age and it's dark out there morally. In our nation today, the morals are in the pit. Because we have left God out of our education system, now we have drifted so far morally, that same-sex marriage and homosexuality are becoming an excepted lifestyle, and that will result in the protective covering of God being lifted off our nation if we do not repent.

We are living in spiritual midnight. I've never lived in a day when it seems there is more spiritual darkness. Many ministers are not preaching the whole counsel of God, and you know as well as I do America is a materialistic nation. The majority of people are serving money, and many today are worshiping the creation rather than the Creator.

We are living in a physical midnight. People are sick and down and discouraged with diseases and infirmities never heard of before. There is a cancer scourge sweeping our country like I have never seen. If there ever was a day we need to have the Healer living in us, it's today. We need to know how to take authority over every sickness and disease. God wants you well and healthy. In Luke 9:1 and Matthew 10:1, Jesus called his

disciples and “he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and manner of disease.”

When the doctor gave your disease a name, that disease was licked because the Bible says that Jesus has a name that is above every name, and everything that has a name must bow to the name of Jesus. Grab ahold of that. God has victory for you right now over all the works of the devil

It was an UNEXPECTED CRY. The Bible says in Matthew 24:36, “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.” “Therefore be ye ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” Matt. 24:44.

It was also an AWAKENING CRY. They were all sleeping, but suddenly they were awakened out of their sleep. If there ever was a time the church is sleeping, it is today. When was the last time you heard a sermon on hell preached in your church? When was the last time you heard a sermon on sin, judgment or the lake of fire? Many are in the dark about the Lord’s coming, and yet it is mentioned more than one thousand five hundred and eighteen times in the Bible, and over three hundred times in the New Testament. That shows the emphasis God puts on this important doctrine.

Not only was the midnight cry a sudden cry, an unexpected cry, and an awakening cry, it was a REVEALING CRY. There was no cover-up or hiding behind a false religion, church membership, good works, or money. None of that would help them now.

Verse eight says, “And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out”. Oh, if they would have said that an hour before, they could have been ready. Now it’s too late to do something about it. Before the cry was made, you could not tell the difference between those who had oil and those who didn’t. They were all virgins. The word ‘virgin’ means something that is clean and separate from the world. But they could not go in without the oil, and oil is a type of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, there will be no chance. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not just a one-time thing. We need that daily filling, that constant communion with the Father. Don’t let your oil leak out. Don’t become lukewarm in your Christian experience, or like these foolish virgins, the Bridegroom may come when you are not expecting Him.

When the bridegroom came, five were ready and five were not. How many ready, and how many not? Fifty percent. Two women shall be grinding at the mill. The one shall be taken and the other left. How many ready and how many not? Fifty

percent. Could it be that when Jesus comes fifty percent of the church will be ready and fifty percent will not?

With all the darkness that we see up ahead, Jesus is still the light of the world. The door of grace is still open, thank God, and one of these days we are going to be able to look up and say, “Jesus, we’re home”. No matter what you have gone through or how difficult the days have been, I want to tell you today, get ready. “This world is not our home, We’re just a passing through”. So don’t get attached to this old world, for our real treasure is laid up for us in heaven and will last forever.

We recently received a letter from our missionary friends who have spent eight years in Israel. They wrote, “The Israeli military is bracing for the increased prospect of war with Syria in a confrontation that is expected to include Iran and the Hizbullah. The Hizbullah claim they have over 15,000 missiles and rockets deployed along the Lebanese border with Israel. Israel is grasping at every straw possible trying to find peace, and we know the Bible tells us that there will be no peace until the Prince of peace returns. The entire world is facing a religious struggle – morality against immorality, with a continuous battle being waged among nations, not for money or oil, or land, or ancient customs versus democracy or modernity, but the continuous struggle is to prove whether Hubal, the moon-god of

Mecca, known as Allah is supreme, or whether the Judeo-Christian God of the Bible is supreme.

On October 14th, 2004, a new Sanhedrin court was re-established in Tiberias. It has been hundreds of years ago since the Sanhedrin had been active. Remember, it was the Sanhedrin court that plotted the death of Jesus. The Talmud had predicted that a new Sanhedrin court would be established after Jerusalem would be partly restored and soon after, the Messiah would come to reign. Of course, they never accepted Jesus, and they are now looking for a political messiah. We know it cannot be long, and Jesus our Saviour will come to catch us away.”

The Bible says, “The dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. Oh, think of it! Our final destination is not that old graveyard. Our final destination if we have accepted Jesus as our personal Lord and Saviour will be heaven.

Jesus says in John 14:3, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” Thank God, we do not act like those who have no hope. Is there anything better in life than to know that you can be forgiven, that you can be cleansed, that you can come to Jesus?

I am amazed at how many people have been forgiven, and yet they still cannot really believe it. I am looking at you today by faith. God has forgiven you and helped you, but yet you are still living in bondage and condemnation. You somehow cannot believe or accept what God has done for you and you constantly bring up the things you have done in the past. Let me tell you – when you were born again, you were a babe in Christ. You joined the family of God, but always remember, a baby has no past. It's all forgiven and forgotten. Praise the Lord! God is trying to get you ready for that great homecoming. He doesn't want you to miss it. The apostle Paul said, "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus".

Before this day is over, be sure and read the eighth chapter of Romans. If you are suffering under any condemnation, here is your answer and your remedy. "There is now therefore no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." What does that mean? Jesus Christ has set us free from all condemnation.

Now notice in verse 17, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Why? Because God has adopted us into His family. Don't ever let the devil trick you with the idea that God does not love you anymore. I'll tell you, God loves you with such an everlasting love that the Bible says, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" "He that spared not his own Son but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him freely give us all things?" According to the Word of God, I am more than a conqueror through my wonderful Lord and Saviour because He loves me so much. I feel like having a shouting spell right now!

It reminds me of the old farmer. He just praised the Lord all the time, and the church board couldn't take it anymore because he would always shout and praise the Lord in the church, and they could not quiet him down. So the board drove out to his farm where he was out plowing with his mules. They said to him, "Sir, you have to quit that commotion in church. What makes you shout and praise the Lord all the time?" And the old farmer stood there and wiped his dirty face and said, "You know, when I think of what God has done for me, when I think of what He gave for me, when I think of the blood that His Son shed for me that I might be redeemed, and that I might be a child of God and have a home in heaven that He is preparing for me – HOLD THESE MULES WHILE I SHOUT! I have to shout because I just can't help it!"

I want to ask you today, are you getting thrilled that God is for us, and that “He spared not his only Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall he not with him freely give us all things?” Oh, friend, just think of it! You’re not all you want to be, but thank God, you are not what you once were.

Make sure you are ready for the midnight call today. It is right on the horizon. If you have any question marks in your life, let’s get rid of them right now. Pray this prayer, “Lord Jesus, I want you to come into my heart and life. I want to be your child. I surrender my life to you. Take me and use me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

THERE IS NO ASSURANCE IN THE WORLD THAT IS MORE  
INSPIRING THAN TO KNOW THAT JESUS IS COMING  
AGAIN

WE ARE LIVING IN THE MIDNIGHT HOUR OF THIS AGE

WITH ALL THE DARKNESS WE SEE UP AHEAD, JESUS IS STILL  
THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD