

here i go again - the virgins

"then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. now five of them were wise, and five were foolish." matt 25:1-2

as i am sure a lot of you have noticed lately, i am almost obsessed lately with the parable of the ten virgins in matthew 25. perhaps the Lord is drawing my attention to how so much of the body of Christ is not even looking for his soon return, while all the signs are so obvious to others.

i was listening to joel richardson the other day. (i know he believes it will be a post-trib rapture while i believe it will be pre-trib. nevertheless we are brothers and he has some good teaching.) he was teaching on the virgins and commented how sad he was to think that so many will not be ready. that is, however, just what the scriptures teach. many what we consider "good" people will become aware just how unclean they are in the presence of the Lord. and yes, they will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

the ending of the parable simply says, "assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you." matt 25:11 unlike the immediately following parable about the unused talents, it does not say they will be cast into outer darkness. one would think that to be the obvious response if this came after the tribulation. there would be no time left for redemption. instead they will have seven more years time to spend their talents to "enter into the joy of their Lord." it will mean a grueling time of

hazard and endurance, and perhaps a missing out of being His bride.

i want to emphasis here that i have no "direct" line to the Lord, but am merely speculating - just as we all are about the end times. joel richardson made the comparison of the kingdom of Jesus being compared to a dinner plate. some were standing closer to the center (being Jesus) while some were close to the edge. he said he didn't know where the point was they fall off the plate. but the edge is there and many are teetering on it. my words would add to that: our only "work" is to get as close to the center as we may. and that is not a work of "acts", but a work of love. love draws us near and that is only felt by spending time with the beloved.

scripture clearly tells us that all the virgins (believers) were sleeping when the call went out. i mean, after all, it has been two thousand years since He was last seen. are your eyes getting droopy yet. i think mine and many others are.

but look around you and listen. the clarion call is being made even now and many are waking up. they are preparing their flasks of extra oil for the trip while many are just continuing as if it were just another day of waiting when in fact, it is THE day; not of His appearing but of our intimate call.

the church is waking up; at least half of the church is. if the other half is waking up, it is only in the sense of being "woke" in a worldly way. i know we are all going through different things right now. after

all, it is the end times. but i just told a friend the other day: i believe we are each uniquely equipped for the cross we have to bear. we cast our cares upon Jesus but each of us have a cross to endure.

don't keep sleeping while the clarion call goes forth - be filling up your flask with extra oil. soon the door will be shut and many will be left to navigate the pursuing darkness. throughout the ages of tribulation times satan has always has an anti-christ ready to assume control; nero in ancient rome, hitler in ww2, etc. it was God's timing that prevented it. i believe the rapture of the saints will be satan's cue that his time is now short and he will fully enter into the spirit of the one he has prepared. God help all people remaining then. it will be a time of satan's deception and wrath and ultimately God's wrath.

right now the call is softly and tenderly, but a shout is quickly following. rub your eyes and wake up to the signs before us all; the signs of the season. the fig tree has blossomed and this generation is neigh to passing away. Jesus loves us - each and every one. that's not in question but how well does He know you? it is a question i ask myself daily when i talk with Him!