

may 31

a foolish virgin

"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

i find it extremely interesting that this parable comes immediately after our Lord's famous discourse on the mount of olives. that's found in matthew 24, famous for predicting the signs of His return. nothing the Lord ever did or said was just by happen chance. there was purpose in it all.

recently i had a dear friend write me, mentioning how busy their life was between work and family and everything else. when they got home there was barely time to relax in their recliner for awhile.

i know this person loves the Lord dearly but if we become so burdened and overwhelmed by everything, we will miss what the Lord wants to share with us. that's not even to mention the times of refreshing that come from spending time in His presence. the enemy doesn't care how he distracts you, only that you are. he will use any and every trick in the book and then come up with some new ones.

the ten virgins Jesus spoke of were all saved, i believe. they all had oil (the Holy Spirit) but had allowed their reservoir to run too low. i can think of nothing more heartbreaking than to be betrothed to the

Groom but not have enough oil to greet Him when He arrives. indeed, they all were sleeping. they all were tired and weary from one thing or another.

it is understandable how one would become weary with all that is going on around us. i fear much of the western church, once a blazing torch for a world in darkness, has allowed that torch to become almost extinguished. one only needs to look at britain, america and even europe. perhaps now is the time for the eastern world to evangelize us. i hear china, iran and other places are among the fastest growing churches in the world.

while the western world indulge in feeding upon the harvest planted by previous generations, the eastern world is now sowing seed for the ultimate harvest. while we indulge in pleasure, satisfying our earthly desires, they are suffering in the flesh, becoming that dying seed that produces much.

i know God has reserved for His self a people in all countries. when the prophet elijah complained that he alone was left, God replied, "yet I have reserved seven thousand in israel, all whose knees have not bowed to baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him." 1 kings 19:18

have we allowed our mouth to kiss baal? even some churches are now entertaining the ways of baal. there is no deliverance to be found in these places, only a deepening deception and distraction from the truth. the truth that can set one free.

virgins everywhere, "you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise." heb 10:36 fill up your emptying lamp by basking in His presence. the race we have struggled to run is almost over. the finish line is just ahead and our Lord awaits to wipe the sweat from our brow and the tears from our eyes. push ahead with that last burst of strength that remains. maranatha!