



## Oil and the Holy Spirit

### Message Notes, October 9, 2016

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells a parable about 10 virgin bridesmaids awaiting an upcoming wedding. As was customary in that day, the announcement of the approaching wedding had gone out but no specific time had been revealed. The wedding party were simply to be on the lookout for the special day (or night as it typically happened). Five of the virgins were wise and had a supply of oil for their lamps (as they waited in the night), but five were foolish and brought no oil supply. Through the night, the lamps burned low, and when the bridegroom was announced at midnight, the foolish bridesmaids had no oil in their lamps. They went after more oil but, by the time they returned, the wedding feast had begun and the doors were closed.

Jesus (the bridegroom) is coming again for his church. The announcement is out! We simply do not know the day or hour. We must each be on the watch and ready, with the lamp of our life filled with the Oil of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that makes us ready for our Lord's return.

In scripture, oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Let us consider this analogy. Oil has a . . .

- **Softening nature.** Like oil on a hard, stiff saddle, so the Holy Spirit softens our hard, selfish hearts to be more surrendered to our Father and more compassionate towards others.
- **Cleansing nature.** Like oil applied to corroded battery cables or in our car engines where it not only lubricates but cleans away impurities, so the Holy Spirit cleanses us from sin and the tainting influences of the world. (1 John 1:9)
- **Beautifying nature.** Like oils in beauty products (ie. –Oil of Olay) or like furniture oils that bring out the luster and beauty of wooden furniture, so the Holy Spirit smooths out our character wrinkles and draws out the image of God within us, so that we take on, more and more, the beautiful character of Jesus, that we will be his “radiant church without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.” (Ephesians 5:27)
- **Quieting nature.** Like oil lubricating and quieting a squeaky hinge, so the Holy Spirit will help us quiet our noisy (often damaging) tongues! James (Chapter 3) tells us about the power of the tongue to speak life or destruction. It is a small but powerful part in our bodies. Only by the quieting power of the Holy Spirit can we tame our tongues. The Holy Spirit will also quiet our spirits (if we will stop and yield to his presence), thus enabling us to “be still and know that I am God.” He quiets us to listen and hear the loving, strengthening voice of God.
- **Fattening nature.** Like the oil of Crisco puts “Umph!” into biscuits, chicken, pie crusts, etc., so the Holy Spirit gives spiritual substance and strength to our lives, that we might have endurance in this race of faith in the midst of our broken world.
- **Separating nature.** Like a milk separator divides the raw milk in to distinct layers, so the Holy Spirit separates us from the world. Holy means “separate”, but he is not removing us from the world, as we will see in Jesus’ prayer in John 17 (verses 15-18); he is making us to “rise,” untainted by the world, to be a witness and influencing presence in the world.
- **Healing nature.** Like oils in balms and ointments give healing to our bodies, so the Holy Spirit gives healing to our souls from the traumas and wounds of life (incidentally, this is the theme of our “Growing in Wholeness” class here at CCC). He especially guides and helps us in the process of forgiveness which is a primary source of healing in our lives.

### Reflection Questions

1. Which of these natures of the Holy Spirit do you most need to experience in your life right now?
2. Which of these natures is most difficult for you? Why is this? How can you open your heart to the Holy Spirit in this specific aspect?
3. As you consider others, can you see ways to pray for the Holy Spirit to minister one (or more) of these natures to them? How might you be part of Holy Spirit's ministry to them; a channel of his grace to them?