

# LWMORG

## The Sleeping Virgins

by Minister R. Thomas Lambur

### **Will You Awake Before He Comes?**

*Mt 25:1-13 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. 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. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*

It was while the bridegroom tarried that the virgins who represent the church fell asleep. This passage gives us warning by the Words of Jesus Himself to watch and pray because He is coming.

We can merely speculate on this time of His return or become aware of what Jesus says of the closeness of His coming by watching and praying. So with this Jesus gives us further warning...

*Matt. 24:43-44 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*

### **Are We Waiting Upon The Lord?**

*Ps 123:2 Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, until that he have mercy upon us.*

Please notice the attentiveness in which the servant looks to the master. Please look at the eyes of the maiden who has her focuses upon her mistress. Do we, as the church, wait upon the Lord Jesus with this intensity in devotion? The Bride who is in love is motivated to this level of devotion. Her heart is captured by her Lord's every desire. So our attentiveness as His Bride is upon the Groom... as our eyes look toward His coming. The Bride is not aloof but watching and listening in the Spirit.

## **The Surprise to Come**

While “you think not” is a statement that indicates surprise, the surprise is that of Jesus breaking in and snatching His Bride away in the Rapture. Jesus goes on to say that if the attendee, which is Satan, would have known the time of Jesus’ snatching away of His Bride, he would have tried to stop the invasion of the Groom breaking in upon earth. The phrases Jesus uses to describe the Rapture are “Break-In” and a house “Broken Up,” which tells us the whole world will be up in arms over this event. Even though Satan is not informed of this timing of the “Break-In” Rapture, it seems that the virgins who are waiting have some insight into the timing of His snatching away. The virgins awake!

***Matt. 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.***

We are told in Scripture, you may say, that no one knows the hour or the day, which is true!

***Matt. 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.***

However, Jesus has said that the Bride is to be ready and awakened, discerning through watching and prayer. Unfortunately, He says if she is not faithful to this one thing, she will be left behind.

***1Thess. 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.***

## **The Reminder**

Why is it, you suppose, that the Apostle Paul calls the Bride to remembrance when he makes this statement? He is reminding them to watch and pray because of the hour and the day of the “Break-In.”

Jesus again warns the church in the book of Revelation through the Apostle John saying...

***Rev. 3:1-5 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.***

## **Today’s Church Spiritual Condition**

Jesus addresses the church in this manner... telling them....”Sardis, you are a church which claims to be of high spiritual reputation and renowned fame. However, you are in reality a church which is not alive on the inside; you are, in fact, dead to your relationship

with me.” When Jesus says, “Be Watchful,” He is saying... “Awake, Awake, Awake... stop following the ways of this world, off in your own dreams, trying to be fulfilled by this world. Your dreams are keeping you from me and the appointed spiritual life that I have called you to fulfill.” Now Jesus is saying... “Awake to the realities of the spiritual life and truth that I have spoken to you of... and Strengthen what is remaining to fulfill your call... for I have not found your works completed before my God. You’re not right with me spiritually.” Now Jesus begins to address them warning in this manner... “If you will not watch (and pray) and beware of my return, I will come upon you as a thief and you will not know what hour I will come upon you!” Then Jesus says... “There are those who have defiled their garments, who are not right with me and some who have remained spiritually clean.” Jesus warns those who are defiled about their spiritual condition and assures those who are faithful to him of their name still being written down in His book of Life.

***Matt. 16:2-3 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?***

***Lk. 12:54-56 And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is. And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass. Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?***

***1Thess 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.***

### **The Times and The Seasons**

Do you really think that Jesus said all these things about the last days in warning us to watch and pray and did not mean what He said about it?! Watching and praying leads a person to spiritual discernment about the current times and about their surroundings. Jesus said that people could discern the natural surroundings and predict weather changes of which their agricultural community depended upon for their economy, yet, when it came to them understanding that they were in the beginning of the end, they had no spiritual discernment. Those who are the Bride, however, have been told by the passage of Rev. 3:1-3 that those which are watching and praying come into this knowledge so that they will not be overtaken or surprised by His return in the Rapture. When Paul says in 1 Thess. 5:1 I have not need to write unto you about the times and seasons, it is because they are watching and praying.

***1Thess. 5:4-9 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith***

**and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ...**

Here Paul, by the Holy Spirit, says that if you are the Bride, you are watching and praying... and not overtaken as a thief. Because of watching and praying in which illumination and spiritual discernment is the fruit, these are spiritually aware of the soon return and Rapture of His Bride making preparation for the Groom and her marriage. Those in the church who are not watching and praying are still asleep. They do not hear the call "Behold the Bridegroom Cometh!" These are drunk with the things of this world and have not regarded the life of being in the realm of the Spirit of God, making completion in their personal callings. So these are not ready and they are overtaken...

There is a soberness in these writings I believe to shake us, and to cause us to become awakened to watch and pray before Him. We are told by Paul that we are to put on Christ and be waiting on the Lord when he comes for us.

### **Watch and Pray**

**Lk. 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.**

It is in this alone, watching and praying, that counts the Bride to be worthy to escape the wrath of God which is appointed to the unfaithful and is to be poured out in the Great Tribulation upon the unbelievers. I say again the Bride is not appointed to wrath.

**Lk. 12:43-46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.**

The attitude that some men have is that the Lord's return is not soon and so they are consumed with themselves to the point that they no longer live as those who are faithful. These become full of grease that has nothing to do with grace; so they slip away in their backslidden conditions and away from God to the point where they no longer seek God or fear Him. Their spiritual condition becomes tragic knowing they are appointed the same judgment as those who are unbelievers, finding themselves trapped inside the Great day of God's Wrath and Indignation!

### **Are We Worthy To Receive His Invitation?**

**Matt. 22:2-5,8 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings**

*are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandis.... Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.*

Here the passage above tells us that the Father God has made a marriage supper for His Son and His Bride. He calls the evangelist messengers to publish the news everywhere to supply a great and noble company worthy for such a feast. What an honor to go to such a banquet. The extravagance alone would be breath-taking. These that are called to the wedding are those who have been sent the invitation. What is their response to this occasion? These are simply caught up in the things of this world so much that they pass by the personal invitation and honor. These that were bidden were not worthy.

I sincerely pray that you are not among those who have counted lightly the invitation to watch and pray because of the nearness of our Lord's coming. If this message has waked you and quaked you to spiritually arouse yourself to wait on God by the Spirit, then I have done well in the Lord's eyes. This is my motive... to prepare the way of the Lord and make straight paths before Him, building up the Lord's highway, preparing His Bride for His return.

*Rev. 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

End

Discussion and Prayer Time:

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