

The Sleeping Church

Scripture reading: Matthew 25:1-6

I want to talk to you today about *“The Sleeping Church.”* Turn your Bibles with me to Matthew and we are going to read from Matthew 25, beginning with Verse 1, *“Then shall the kingdom of heaven (the church) be likened unto ten virgins which took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom.”*

It is interesting: you talk to the people—everybody—and they all say, “We are waiting! Jesus will soon come! We are waiting for Jesus!” All the denominations are waiting for Jesus! But it is going to be *“...weeping and gnashing of teeth!”* (See Matthew 8:12, 24:51, 25:30).

It goes on in Verse 2, *“And five of them were wise and five were foolish.”* Spiritually, it is not saying that half of them were wise and half of them were foolish. If half of the church was wise and half was foolish, it would be a wonderful thing. But it is not even ten percent of the church that is wise. There is not even ten percent! So, therefore, we are dealing with all foolish people. Foolish ministries! Foolish congregations!

Let me explain to you what *“foolish”* means, because sometimes you have to say what the meaning of *“is”* is. The Bible says in Psalm 14:1, *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.”* It says that the fool has said in his heart that there is no God. But here am I (saved, sanctified, baptized in the Holy Spirit) and still I will hide and do sin. I still will tell a lie. When you do this, you are saying that there is no God. You are saying that there is no God! But God is standing up looking at you while you are lying and thinking that you are hiding because the other person does not know about it. Because the people do not know, you feel quite confident that you and your situation are hidden. You come to church, straighten up, and try to sing—but you do not fool the Holy Spirit! Amen!

Let me tell you this: if we came in the congregation and our hearts were pure before God, then when we would open our mouths to sing, the whole area would be shaken! Yes! I am telling you we had had prayer meetings where we would go through the whole night. Then when we would get to three o’clock in the morning (for some reason the Spirit would always fall at that time), people in the town would come running out of their beds to the altar. They wanted Jesus! They would always tell the same stories—they could not sleep. “I was tormented! I had to come!” they would say.

So then, the glory of God and the power of God is getting into you and fastening right there, but it is not coming out. If the power of God was let loose in us, our meeting places would not be able to hold the number of people. This whole town would be shaken! Sinners would be shaken! Oh, yes!

Forgive me please to deviate, but I have seen sorcerers to destroy churches. I don’t think you believe in sorcery. But if you do not believe in sorcery, if you do not believe that there is a living devil, then you do not believe God. For God said that there is a living devil. Let me say it again: if you do not believe in sorcery, then you do not believe God, for the Bible says that there is sorcery. Amen! In Ephesians it speaks of *“...spiritual wickedness in high places.”* What do you think He is talking about?

I have seen sorcerers oppress a whole church. Yes! They make the leaders of the church get sick, or some go crazy and out of their minds while the people are praising God, clapping, singing, jumping, and leaping. With all that, they cannot overcome the spirit of sorcery that was let loose upon them.

So, I am saying to you that the church is SLEEPING, but it is a time now to wake it up.

(Excerpt from *The Omega Message*, December 2003, pg. 2-3)

Thought for today: Is the glory and the power of God coming into you but not able to come out? Then, stop hiding your sin but let the Blood of Jesus cleanse you so that you might be part of the five wise virgin company.