



## The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Let's read the parable as Jesus gave it.

**“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.”** Matthew 25:1-13.

Matthew 25 follows Matthew 24 where the subject is all about the signs of Jesus coming and end-time events. We can know from this that this parable, and the two that follow it, are telling us things that apply very directly to us today who are living so close to the coming of Jesus. The Spirit of Prophecy has told us also that this parable is illustrating the experience of the Advent people during the time of Miller, and also that these similar events will be repeated in our day.

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.” Last Day Events, p. 72.

“Again and again I have been shown that the past experiences of God's people are not to be counted as dead facts. We are not to treat the record of these experiences as we would treat a last year's almanac. The record is to be kept in mind, for history will repeat itself...” The Publishing Ministry, p. 175.

“The parable of the ten virgins of Matthew 25 also illustrates the experience of the Adventist people.” Great Controversy, p. 393.

“I am often referred to the parable of the ten virgins, five of whom were wise, and five foolish. This parable **Has Been** and **Will Be** fulfilled **to the very letter**, for it has a special application to

this time, and, like the third angel's message, **has been** fulfilled and **will continue** to be **present truth** till the close of time." Review & Herald, August 19, 1890.

"A special message has come to our world in the messages **of the first and second angels**. [Rev. 14:6-8, quoted.] Under the proclamation of these messages, the midnight cry was made, and the believers in the messages were compelled to go out from the churches because they preached the second appearing of Christ in the clouds of heaven. The whole world was to hear that message, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him." **Here is the parable of the ten virgins**. Manuscript Releases, vol. 16, p. 267.

We realize by the setting of this story that there are deep lessons here that we need to know about. We will allow the Spirit of Prophecy to show us some of them. We are selecting from chapter 29 in Christ's Object Lessons.

As Christ was seated with His disciples on Mount of Olives, they actually could see a home decorated and made all ready for a marriage ceremony and people waiting around it for the Bridegroom to come.

"As Christ sat looking upon the party that waited for the bridegroom, He told His disciples the story of the ten virgins, by their experience illustrating the experience of the church that shall live just before His second coming.

"The two classes of watchers represent the two classes who profess to be waiting for their Lord. They are called virgins because they profess a pure faith. By the lamps is represented the word of God. The psalmist says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105. The oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit." Christ's Object Lessons 406.

So we see that the lamps represent the Word of God. But in order for there to be light, there must also be oil. Heavenly grace which alone can make His word a lamp to the feet and a light to the path. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4:6. There are in this story, two classes shown, the wise Virgins and the foolish Virgins. At first though, they all appear the same; they are dressed the same, they all have the lamps the Word of God; they all believe that the bridegroom is coming. But half of them end up lost. What made the difference?

"In the parable, all the ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom. All had lamps and vessels for oil. For a time there was seen no difference between them. So with the church that lives just before Christ's second coming. All have a knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ's near approach, and confidently expect His appearing. But as in the parable, so it is now. A time of waiting intervenes, faith is tried; and when the cry is heard, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him," many are unready. They have no oil in their vessels with their lamps. They are destitute of the Holy Spirit.

"Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of His word is of no avail. The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. One may be familiar with the commands and promises of the Bible; but unless the Spirit of God sets the truth home, the character will not be transformed. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit,

men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan." Christ's Object Lessons 408.

We are told that those represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth. OK so far, but here is the big difference; they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up. This class are represented also by the stony-ground hearers. They receive the word with readiness, but they fail of assimilating its principles. Its influence does not last, it does not become their life's focus.

The Spirit works upon man's heart, according to his desire and consent implanting in him a new nature; but the class represented by the foolish virgins have been content with a superficial work. They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live. Their service to God degenerates into a form.

The Holy Spirit never forces Himself on us. Notice He only works in us according to our desire and choice. When we truly seek to be transformed and choose God's ways then the Holy Spirit works the changes in us. But this class described as 'foolish' like to listen to the truth but they do not seek to take it into their hearts and live by it.

**"They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness." Ezekiel 33:31.**

The apostle Paul points out that this will be the special characteristic of those who live just before Christ's second coming. He says, **"In the last days perilous times shall come: for men shall be lovers of their own selves; . . . lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." 2 Timothy 3:1-5.**

"This is the class that in time of peril are found crying, Peace and safety. They lull their hearts into security, and dream not of danger. When startled from their lethargy, they discern their destitution, and entreat others to supply their lack; but in spiritual things no man can make up another's deficiency. The grace of God has been freely offered to every soul. The message of the gospel has been heralded, **"Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17.** But character is not transferable. No man can believe for another. No man can receive the Spirit for another. No man can impart to another the character which is the fruit of the Spirit's working. **"Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it [the land], as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness." Ezekiel 14:20.** Christ's Object Lessons 411.

"It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him," and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face

to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in the promises of God. It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace. The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be supplied." Christ's Object Lessons 412.

"The ten virgins are watching in the evening of this earth's history. All claim to be Christians. All have a call, a name, a lamp, and all profess to be doing God's service. All apparently wait for Christ's appearing. But five are unready. Five will be found surprised, dismayed, outside the banquet hall.

"At the final day, many will claim admission to Christ's kingdom, saying, "We have eaten and drunk in Thy presence, and Thou hast taught in our streets." "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works?" But the answer is, "I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from Me." Matthew 7:22; Luke 13:27." Christ's Object Lessons 412.

"Saddest of all words that ever fell on mortal ear are those words of doom, "I know you not."

"We cannot be ready to meet the Lord by waking when the cry is heard, "Behold, the Bridegroom!" and then gathering up our empty lamps to have them replenished. We cannot keep Christ apart from our lives here, and yet be fitted for His companionship in heaven. Christ's Object Lessons 413.

"In the parable the wise virgins had oil in their vessels with their lamps. Their light burned with undimmed flame through the night of watching. It helped to swell the illumination for the bridegroom's honor. Shining out in the darkness, it helped to illuminate the way to the home of the bridegroom, to the marriage feast. So the followers of Christ are to shed light into the darkness of the world. Through the Holy Spirit, God's word is a light as it becomes a transforming power in the life of the receiver. Christ's Object Lessons 414.

Now we will compare Daniel 12:9, 10.

**"And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."**

Here we see that the Bible again is contrasting two groups of people at the End of the World; just like in the parable of the Ten Virgins, only this time they are called the Wise and the Wicked. The Bible does not say that one group is not trying to study the Bible. The Bible just simply says one group understands and the other does not.

We want to find out from the Bible, why is it that the wicked cannot understand? Why is it that the foolish Virgins had no oil? First, we want to look at the wicked rather than the wise; once we identify why the wicked cannot understand, we will then know why the wise do understand.

**"For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked." Psalm 73:3.**

Here the wicked are compared unto the foolish; they are one and the self-same thing. The Psalmist was envious at the foolish because he saw the prosperity of the wicked. So the wicked

and the foolish are one and the same. But when you look in verse 22, notice that the foolish equal something else.

**“So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.” Psalm 73:22.**

The wicked are the foolish, the foolish are the ignorant, therefore the wicked are the ignorant; wicked; foolish; ignorant; the foolish cannot understand; the ignorant cannot understand; the wicked cannot understand.

**“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13.**

The ignorant are also unlearned; wicked; foolish; ignorant; unlearned. The Bible is showing us that the wicked, the foolish, the ignorant, and the unlearned cannot understand, and we are going to find out why. What is it that the unlearned, foolish, wicked, ignorant individuals do with the scriptures?

**“As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.” 2 Peter 3:16.**

The unstable, unlearned individuals wrest the scriptures. They twist it; they take the scriptures out of their proper context. Where God placed the meaning on it in the Bible, they put their own understanding, their own human interpretation on the scriptures. Not just the writings of Paul, because the Bible said, ‘also the other scriptures’. They wrest the scriptures to their own destruction; and if they teach others these false ideas, they too can be led to destruction.

They are unstable, so what is the reason that they are unstable? Let’s begin to think about ourselves. Are we going to be the wise that do understand or will we be with the wicked that will not understand? Are we wresting the scriptures to our own destruction? We need to answer this question, are we wicked or are we wise?

**“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. [With no doubts] For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” James 1:5-7.**

They are unstable because they are double minded; they don’t have faith; they ask God, but there is doubt. Looking at the scriptures with their own human understanding, they are lacking wisdom. What is the ingredient that is missing in their understanding of the Bible? Where does wisdom come from? James says to ask God and He gives to all men liberally. But how does He give us wisdom?

**“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” 1 Corinthians 2:13**

Notice, there’s man’s wisdom, and there is Holy Ghost wisdom. There are those that can teach things with man’s wisdom, and it is not Holy Ghost wisdom. There are those that can teach with

the Holy Ghost's wisdom, and not with man's wisdom. Wisdom comes from the Holy Spirit; the Bible talks about the Spirit of wisdom.

**“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;” Isaiah 11:1, 2.**

This is talking about Christ; the Bible says the Spirit of the Lord rests upon Him and what is that Spirit? It's the Spirit of Wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. This brings Him to the understanding where He can bring Judgment. The Holy Spirit manifests Himself in the life of Christ in seven ways: wisdom; understanding; counsel; might; knowledge; the fear of the Lord; and judgment.

Revelation 5 shows Christ as the Lamb slain; and therefore He is able to open and unseal the Book. The Bible describes Him as having seven horns and seven eyes—which are the seven Spirits of God. A horn in the Bible denotes power; eyes denote wisdom and understanding. The seven Spirits are the seven ways the Holy Spirit manifests Himself in the life of Christ; the first one is the Spirit of wisdom. So Wisdom comes from the Holy Ghost.

The Bible told us that the wicked would do wickedly and none of the wicked would understand. They lack wisdom; they're driven with the wind and tossed; and wisdom comes through the Holy Spirit.

**“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,” Ephesians 1:17-19.**

God would give us the Spirit of Wisdom. How essential is it to have the Holy Spirit in order to understand the Bible? Here in these particular verses lies the very condition of receiving the Holy Ghost.

**“If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” John 14:15-18.**

Notice the Bible is speaking of the other Comforter, the Holy Spirit; Jesus calls Him the Spirit of Truth. We are told that if we love God, we're going to keep His commandments, and He will give us another Comforter. The Holy Spirit is only given to those that obey Him.

**“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.” John 15:26, 27.**

Again the Bible calls the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Truth. Now when the Holy Spirit was giving man wisdom, it led man to write the Scriptures, but many lack understanding. Why is it? We are

lacking something essential; the Holy Spirit. In the following verse the Bible lays out the importance of Prophecy:

**“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:” 2 Peter 1:19.**

The way Christ gets in us is ‘if we take heed’. What does it mean to ‘take heed’? You don’t just listen, you follow, and you put into practice the science of salvation. If we take the Gospel from being a mere message, and put it in our heart and life, the Bible tells us clearly, then will the day dawn and the Daystar, Christ, will arise in our hearts.

**“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1:20, 21.**

Now notice; what type of men wrote the prophecies? Holy men of God; moved by the Holy Ghost. So we are going to those holy men of God, trying to understand the prophecies they wrote by the movement of the Holy Ghost. How are we to understand them then? If holy men wrote them, what type of men understand them? Holy men. If the Holy Ghost moved upon them to write, in order for us to understand, the Holy Ghost has to move upon us.

Look at the Sabbath as an example; the Sabbath is a holy day. What type of persons can keep a Holy Day? Holy people. So those trying to understand Holy Prophecies, written by Holy Men, must be Holy. We must have an experience in order to really, fully grasp, the things God is trying to get His people to understand.

If we are not guided by the Holy Spirit, we will be wresting the Scriptures. If we are not being guided by the Holy Spirit, we WILL wrest the scriptures to our own destruction. We will take things out of their proper framework and put our own construction upon them; because we are not studying the Bible to learn to obey the truth.

The Jews of old studied the prophecies every day, but not with a sincere desire to do God’s will. They were looking for evidence to sustain their ambitious hopes of national greatness. They formed an opinion, and then studied the Bible to find evidence for that opinion. They didn’t let the Bible define truth for them; they decided what was ‘truth’ and then tried to find a few scriptures to bolster that ‘truth.’ We can be doing the same thing; without the Holy Ghost, we will be wresting the Scriptures!

The job of the Holy Spirit is to convict men of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. There is something else about the Holy Spirit, His office, His work, and why He is called the Spirit of Truth.

**“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.” John 16:13-15.**

Does the Holy Ghost speak His own words? Does He show His own truth? No; He takes from Christ and shows what was given to Christ. Christ said, "All that the Father hath is Mine." The Father gives something to Jesus, and then Jesus allows the Holy Spirit to give this to the people, to show them things to come. Where else do we read that in the Bible? Revelation 1: same author is writing here, he has the same thoughts as he opens the book of Revelation.

**"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:" Revelation 1:1.**

It comes from the Father, to Christ, and Christ shows it to His servants to show them things to come, but Who is the One Who shows us things to come? It is the Holy Spirit; the Prophetic understanding comes through the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost is the One that leads us into all truth. So if we are going study Holy Prophecies, in order to understand Holy things and Holy Prophecies, we have to be a Holy People, guided by the Holy Ghost.

So, how do we receive Him? Now the Bible does say just ask for Him but there are always conditions for every Promise. Who receives the Holy Ghost? Here the disciples are brought before the Pharisees:

**"Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." Acts 5:28.**

The Holy Spirit is only given to those who are obedient. Now, you might say, "Wait a minute, doesn't the Holy Spirit convict the wicked?" Yes, but conviction of the Holy Ghost and reception of the Holy Ghost, are two separate things. The Holy Spirit will only be given to those who are obedient.

So, why it is that the wicked will not understand. What is it about the wicked; what makes them foolish, ignorant, unlearned, and unstable? Why is it that they lack wisdom, the Holy Ghost? Well so far we've seen that the Holy Spirit is only given to the obedient. So the wicked are disobedient; they're sinners. They continue in sin.

**"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever." Psalm 111:10.**

Understanding, because Scripture says; "None of the wicked shall understand." Here the Bible says: "a good understanding have all they that do his commandments." The Bible says, staying in the book of Psalms, Psalm 25: because the Holy Spirit is given to those that obey Him; the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of wisdom; the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord; and the Bible says, "a good understand have all they which DO His commandments.

**“The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.”  
Psalm 25:14.**

What does the Bible identify as secrets, or the secret things? The ‘secret things’ are the Prophecies. The Bible says here that the Secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and He will show them His covenant.

That is very beautiful. There is a specific message that deals with the Covenant and breaking the Covenant. There is a reason why those around the world fight against that message and cannot see that message; it is the Seven Times, the 2520. It’s all based on the Covenant.

Why won’t they see His Covenant? Well, the Bible says; “The secret of the LORD is with them that fear Him; and He will shew them His covenant.” So it must be that they do not fear the Lord, and they are not seeing the Secrets of God. It’s not just about reading and taking it in; we have to act on it.

**“The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.”  
Deuteronomy 29:29.**

Notice what Jesus said in Matthew 6: this one verse speaks volumes of information! If we are really honest with ourselves, God is trying to say something to us individually.

**“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.” Matthew 6:22.**

We have to have an eye single to God’s glory, focused on God’s will. We can’t want the world and spiritual things at the same time; that’s double minded; those that are divided and unstable will never receive wisdom from God. But if the eye is single, focused on God’s glory and God’s will; His promise is the whole body will be full of light!

**“But if thine eye be evil, [or wicked] thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!” Matthew 6:23.**

If we are trying to understand the light that grows brighter and brighter until the perfect day, we have to have an eye single to God’s glory, and then the whole body will be full of light. We will not lack understanding; we will grow as the message grows, we will advance as the message advances. We won’t lack any good thing.

**“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.” John 7:17.**

How are we going to know doctrine and the teachings of Christ? We have to do His will. If we are obedient, we will receive the Holy Ghost; if our eye is single, we will be full of light. If we fear the Lord, we will have wisdom; we’ll have His Secret, He’ll show us His Covenant.

**“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)” John 7:38, 39.**

The word 'believe' in scripture is an active word; it's not just something that is mental; the word 'belief' in Scripture is an active principle.

**“Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.” John 12:35, 36.**

We are to walk in the light; we are to believe in the light. If you believe in the light, you're going to walk in the light. If you believe in Christ, you are going to order your life after Christ, and you'll receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is given to those that are obedient; that fear the Lord; that do His commandments; that love Him. And the Holy Spirit is the One that leads us into all truth and shows us things to come.

The Truth of the Bible, its one; you cannot separate the theory from the practice; the mental from the heart work. If all we do is focus on the heart and all we do is talk about what people think righteousness by faith is, well then we are wresting the Scriptures. If all we are doing is dealing with the mind, never placing it at the heart, never dealing with the cross, never pointing people to Jesus; we're wresting the Scriptures. And the Bible says we will be doing it to our own destruction!

“The Jewish leaders had studied the teachings of the prophets concerning the kingdom of the Messiah; but they had done this, not with a sincere desire to know the truth, but with the purpose of finding evidence to sustain their ambitious hopes. When Christ came in a manner contrary to their expectations, they would not receive Him; and in order to justify themselves, they tried to prove Him a deceiver. When once they had set their feet in this path, it was easy for Satan to strengthen their opposition to Christ. The very words that should have been received as evidence of His divinity were interpreted against Him. Thus they turned the truth of God into a lie, and the more directly the Saviour spoke to them in His works of mercy, the more determined they were in resisting the light.” Desire of Ages 212.

They opened the Scriptures with preconceived ideas and opinions; not coming to the study of the Scriptures to find the Truth. They used the Scriptures to prove their own ideas. That's not how to study the Bible.

**“For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, [speaking of Christ] nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.” Acts 13:27.**

Is it possible to be where prophecy is preached every Sabbath Day; somewhere the truth is laid out, but because we don't know Christ experimentally, because we don't know Him, nor the voice of the prophets—and who is the voice of the prophets? The Holy Ghost; the Holy Ghost was the one that moved upon Holy men. We know the Holy Ghost takes from Christ; this is the voice of Jesus as well. Because we don't know Jesus, nor the voice of the prophets—the Holy Spirit—you mean we would fulfil the very prophecies that we talk about every Sabbath?

We talk about the Close of Probation; receiving of the Mark of the Beast; the Holy Spirit being withdrawn; and down the list. You mean it's possible that we might fulfil those very things? Can

you imagine that? Every Sabbath Day; they were going over the prophecies. You see for the Jews of old, for example Isaiah 53, that was something that every good Jew memorized, and in that very chapter in Isaiah 53 it talks about Him being a man of sorrows; how He was despised and rejected of men. They knew these things yet they were the ones that fulfilled it! They were the ones that despised Him and rejected Him.

We can talk about others receiving the Mark of the beast, and the others' probation closing and the others' Holy Spirit being withdraw but in reality it could be us, if we don't KNOW Him. Not just know about Him; it's different to know about somebody, than to really know somebody. They didn't know Him, and because they didn't know Him, they fulfilled the prophecies and were condemned.

**“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Corinthians 2:14.**

The natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God, why not? Because they are spiritually discerned; so here the natural and the spiritual are contrasted.

**“For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” 1Corinthians 1:19.**

We can spend untold amounts of money, put ourselves in hundreds and thousands of dollars of debt, get a paper at the end of our experience and say that we have 'mastered Divinity', now we can be called Doctor this and Master that. We can have little letters behind our name and put a diploma up on the wall. We can understand Greek and Hebrew and Latin, and yet still not understand the Bible. Is that possible? It is possible. It is very possible.

People that make it their job to understand the Bible but they do not understand it. They are lacking that one thing.

What about us? We maybe don't make it our job to understand the Bible. We forget that as Seventh-day Adventists that we all are to be light-bearers to the world—we forget that. We think that some people with certain titles are the light-bearers; no, as Seventh-day Adventists we're all to be light-bearers, all to be missionaries; all to sharing the truth. If these people who spend untold numbers of hours studying the Bible do not understand it because they lack one thing, what about those who don't even spend time?

**“For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;**

**“But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after**

**the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1:19-31**

Brethren, the world’s wisdom, no matter how expensive it is and how many hours are put in; no matter how many books, no matter how much information is known, that will not aid you to understanding the Bible. The Bible tells us that spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Amen.

Spiritual things are spiritually discerned; the natural man cannot receive the things of God. What is the natural man? Let’s define the ‘natural man’; because the Bible says the natural man cannot receive the things of God, it’s foolishness unto him, because spiritual things are spiritually discerned.

**“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.” [They are two different things.]**

**15:45 “And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man [the natural man] is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.” 1 Corinthians 15:42-49.**

Brethren, the Bible says the natural man, the earthy man, the fleshly man, the sensual man, the old man, cannot receive the things of God. What must happen?

In John 3; there was a midnight interview with one of the Jewish theologians. He came with all his great eloquence and swelling words and Jesus cut right to the problem as He was able to read the heart.

**“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3.**

What did the theologian do? He had spent the time; he made it his job to understand the Scriptures. But because he was the natural man, he could not understand the spiritual things that Christ was saying; so he took that which was spiritual and made it natural—he began wresting the scriptures. And he says, “Wait a minute; how can a man who is born, go back in a second time into his mother’s womb?”

**“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and**

**that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.” John 3:5-7.**

Christ said, “Except a man be born again, he can’t see the kingdom of God. Except you be born again, ye cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” What is the ‘kingdom of God’ spoken of here? We just think of it as the coming of Christ and the kingdom of glory.

When Christ came preaching . . . What is the kingdom of God? Because you can’t even see it, if you are not born again; that’s what Jesus said.

**“And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them. And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.” Luke 4:42, 43.**

The Kingdom of God means much more than just His coming in glory and a physical tangible kingdom; it’s the truth as well; it’s the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. When Christ came preaching He was preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

**“Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” Mark 1:14, 15.**

And yet Jesus said, unless we are born again, we can’t even see it. Unless we are born again, we won’t even have a conception of what is truth. We won’t really understand it. We might hear it preached every Sabbath Day, but WE can’t see it. Hear me; WE can’t see it. We might be content with letting others describe its beauties, but WE need to see it for ourselves. Jesus is clear, except we’re born again; we cannot see the Kingdom of God.

Why will the wicked do wickedly and not be able to understand? They’re not born again. They don’t do God’s commandments; they don’t fear Him; they don’t obey Him; they don’t love Him; therefore no matter how much material is gained; no matter how many meetings attended; they never will understand.

It’s time to take theory and make it practical. It’s time to experience the Gospel. We need to KNOW Jesus; we need to know Him; not about Him, but know Him for ourselves.

“The soul that turns to God for its help, its support, its power, by daily, earnest prayer, will have noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth and duty, lofty purposes of action, and a continual hungering and thirsting after righteousness. By maintaining a connection with God, we shall be enabled to diffuse to others, through our association with them, the light, the peace, the serenity, that rule in our hearts. The strength acquired in prayer to God, united with persevering effort in training the mind in thoughtfulness and care-taking, prepares one for daily duties and keeps the spirit in peace under all circumstances.” Mount of Blessing 85.

The only way we will be able to see right, is if we do this daily; casting ourselves onto the Lord in earnest prayer. This is a beautiful promise.

**“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.**

**Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” John 14:21-23.**

What is another name for manifest? “I will reveal Myself to you.” How are we ever going to see the Revelation of Jesus? How are we ever going to see the Revelation of Jesus, understand the Revelation of Jesus—it’s to love Him; to keep His commandments; He says, “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and I will manifest myself to him.”

Why will the world not receive the manifestation of Jesus? Why will they not see the Revelation of Jesus Christ? It’s because they were wicked; they didn’t love Him, they didn’t obey Him. That’s why they will never understand; that’s why they will never see Jesus. They might talk about Jesus; but they will never see Him; they will never know Him.

Christ revealed Himself to Paul personally on the road to Damascus, and Paul immediately stopped conferring with flesh and blood. (Galatians 1) Once he met Christ face to face, he didn’t go to the other brethren; he didn’t ask Peter what was truth, he went with Jesus for three years into the wilderness of Arabia and let Jesus manifest himself to him. He ate the little book; that’s why he was able to go and receive the abundance of the revelations. Remember, he was taken up into the third heaven and he heard things that it was not lawful for a man to write. He heard the same things John heard. John heard what the Seven Thunders uttered and was commanded not to write them. Paul understood the same things. He had the abundance of the revelations.

“The perception and appreciation of truth, He said, depends less upon the mind than upon the heart. Truth must be received into the soul; it claims the homage of the will. If truth could be submitted to the reason alone, pride would be no hindrance in the way of its reception. But it is to be received through the work of grace in the heart; and its reception depends upon the renunciation of every sin that the Spirit of God reveals. Man’s advantages for obtaining a knowledge of the truth, however great these may be, will prove of no benefit to him unless the heart is open to receive the truth, and there is a conscientious surrender of every habit and practice that is opposed to its principles. To those who thus yield themselves to God, having an honest desire to know and to do His will, the truth is revealed as the power of God for their salvation.” Desire of Ages 455.

How will we know the truth? How will we understand? The heart is yielded, it is given to God. “Only those who love and fear God can understand the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.” Prophets and Kings 516.