



Let my people go!
Ministry of Cpt. Gordon Nelson
The Old Ship of Zion
Only believers are
"content with such things as ye have"
(Heb. 13:58)
A Christian-Zionist Publication

MESSAGE 3 - 2005

"LORD, ARE THERE FEW THAT BE SAVED?"

By Captain Gordon Nelson

*"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved?
And he said unto them..." (Lk. 13:23)*

"...strive to enter in at the strait (narrow; from the obstacles standing about – Strong's 4728, stemming from the root 4728: to stand or continue in covenant) gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." (Lk. 13:24) Do you allow obstacles to stand in the way of your covenant with God to stay on the narrow way?

Jesus lists some of the obstacles that prevent you from entering, namely the flesh family. Our flesh family can be an obstacle! It is the obstacles that we place on our own priority list that make the way narrow.

The love of money is another obstacle. *"Go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor...And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions." (Mk. 10:21-22)*

If the rich young ruler would just knock off "striving to enter the strait gate," and join another Laodicea church, "the broad way," he'd have no problem. He'd feel at home with this affirmation crowd who serve Christ for the "loaves and fishes." Laodicea was not rich; they only had been taught positive and possibility thinking that fed their lust. *"Because THOU SAYEST, I am rich"* (Rev. 3:17), does not mean you are rich. The only one rich is the televangelist instructing you from Mark 11:23, *"that those things which HE SAITH shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."* The rich man would feel rather comfortable in Laodicea with everyone who "saith they are rich."

There is always a price to pay for every preacher's positive confession. First off, he must become a "little god" to attain such a spiritual plateau to possess *"whatsoever he saith."* Kenneth Copeland says Jesus became an emaciated worm crawling around in hell seeking repentance and restoration, after He "bore our sins and became a sinner." Once you start down this path of claiming you are a god, you've got to continue on "the way" you chose. It is like a road we've chosen to travel. No longer can you be a human being like the rest of us.

E.W. Kenyon "little gods"

Next, you must purchase the entire works of E.W. Kenyon in order to attain unto this status of "little god." It stands to reason that if you're going to attain to such a spiritual status as to declare, *"mountain, Remove hence to yonder place"* (Matt. 17:20), you must engage your brain into another man's teaching who has already attained the status of "little god."

The final thing to attaining wealth is that you must now learn to sow your seed in bottom land, or the good soil. Of course, no soil is more “gooder” than the televangelist giving you the get rich quick sham. In fact, he or she will guarantee a hundredfold return (not in writing, of course) for any seed sown in their soil. It is self-evident that the only one getting rich is the preacher, so, you reason, it must be the soil. Hence, you try someone else’s soil. The carrot is always out there, so you keep on running.

In answering the question asked of our Lord, “*Lord, are there few that be saved?*” Jesus instructed them to “*strive to enter in at the strait gate.*” (Lk. 13:23-24) From the answer Christ gave us, we still have a choice. You are still a free moral agent, not a robot, even after you are saved. This is the reason we need the baptism of fire that John the Baptist prophesied “*he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire*” (Matt. 3:11), in order to make the right choice. Any old fish can “go with the flow” downstream, but a good live salmon fights the current to go up stream. The path of least resistance is not always the correct way to go.

Captain’s goal—Explain the parable in Matt. 25:1-13

With the Lord’s help in this message, I’m going to divulge our goal: to decipher, once and for all, the parable of the five wise and the five foolish virgins. If you take this parable literally and verbatim, it will surprise even you what all you can come up with. Taking this one parable literally, enslaved me to LaBelle Bebe for five of the most formidable years of my life, ages 22-27. One can interpret this one parable as to how much oil you have in your tank, like checking the oil in your car with a dipstick. The oil is running low—I need to get refilled at the church. At LaBelle Bebe’s church, we had church 365 days a year and three times on Sunday. Jesus could arrive any minute of the day, and supposing my tank was low on oil? It’s horrible, this feeling of the fear of hell all because you never were told you were saved by grace. After knowledge enters in, the amount of oil you have becomes irrelevant! “*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*” (Hos. 4:6)

We are going to learn by a series of comparisons that are similar and see if there isn’t a common thread of knowledge to be gleaned as we attempt to “break the bread” of this parable.

Perry Stone

Perry Stone, a Daystar prophetic teacher on television, reads his pre-trib rapture theory into this same parable of the five wise and five foolish virgins. I’m not alone. I’ve got a lot of company in attempting to unlock the mystery in this parable’s true interpretation.

The door shut by God

The wise virgins instructed the foolish virgins to go and get oil. “*Go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.*” (Matt. 25:9) This is clearly Christian television. They sell their books to buy television time from Paul Crouch or Marcus Lamb. By the time the foolish returned, “*the door was shut.*” (Matt. 25:10) These sellers and buyers of information about how to receive the “oil” were still here selling their wares. “*And while they went TO BUY (their tapes, videos, books, etc., from Pentecostal televangelists), the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: AND THE DOOR WAS SHUT.*” (Matt. 25:10) The door was shut, but the sellers and buyers are still selling their

Left Behind series at bargain prices. Can we answer all these questions in a single newsletter? That's the challenge!

#1 Similitude – Noah and the ark

Do you know God shut the door to the ark seven days before one drop of rain ever came out of heaven? *“And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD SHUT HIM IN.”* (Gen. 7:16) GOD SHUT THE DOOR! The similarity is that *“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.”* (Matt. 25:10-12)

Noah, a preacher of righteousness, preached for 120 years with nary a convert. But Noah never got discouraged: he kept on preaching righteousness! I keep on preaching righteousness, knowing the door is shut to your heart. You are already building on your own building, and like Rush Limbaugh tells them, “You don’t much appreciate being confused by the facts!”

#2 Similitude – Luke’s account of the strait gate

“Strive to enter in at the strait gate...When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord open to us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are...depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.” (Lk. 13:24-27)

Once the master of the house rises up and shuts the door, you can knock and yell, “Open up the door!” but to no avail. You’ll just be another Esau who *“was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”* (Heb. 12:17)

#3 Similitude – The Sermon on the Mount warns about wolves (Matt. 7:15)

In the Sermon on the Mount’s warning about wolves, we read, *“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening* (extortion, with a lawyer’s counsel) *wolves.”* In context with Matthew 7:15-23, we read about the present day Pentecostal church. *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that DOETH THE WILL OF MY FATHER which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? (have we not spoke in other tongues in Thy Name?) and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity* (Gk.-lawless-one man show). *.”* A dictator is casting out devils!

We learned from Luke’s account of this identical same story, *“Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten* (the bread of life) *and drunk* (from the Holy Communion) *in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets* (street preachers and the Internet pulpits). *But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the* (Jewish) *prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.”* (Lk. 13:21-28) You’ll be thrust out due to your obsession with Jew-baiters.

Salvation is of the Jews

Have you not read, “*Salvation is of the Jews*”? (Jn. 4:22) Those of you who have believed the lie of replacement theology, the identity movement and even amillennialism, are in danger of the hell fire. Please read Matthew 25:31-46 about the sheep nations and the goat nations. “*Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these MY BRETHERN (the Jews), ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.*” (Matt. 25:40-41) Do you still want to believe Arnold Murray, a white supremacist TV teacher of the Identity Movement theology?

Gentiles have been so brainwashed by the traditions stemming from the “Five Points of Calvinism” that they are blinded to the evil in the resurrection of Calvinism by John Darby.

1. Total Depravity (also known as Original Sin)
2. Unconditional Election
3. Limited Atonement
4. Irresistible Grace
5. Perseverance of the Saints (Once Saved Always Saved)

Please note the acronym, T.U.L.I.P. Three of the five deal with “unconditional salvation.”

#4 Similitude – Olivet Discourse – Deception by the false prophets

In the Olivet discourse, Jesus was asked a question by the disciples, “*Tell us, when shall these things (of prophecy) be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*” (Matt. 24:3-5) Deception is the number one sign of Christ’s return. By these three-name, family-controlled, non-profit religious incorporations provided by the Secretary of State, the preacher becomes “*lords over God’s heritage.*” (1 Pet. 5:3) As a “lord” he can boldly declare, “Lo, here is Christ.”

5 Conclusion drawn from our similitudes regarding the Parable of the Five Wise and Five Foolish Virgins

In the parable of the five wise and the five foolish virgins, “*the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.*” (Matt. 25:8) The foolish virgins had sufficient oil, if Christ came today! But if He delayed, the foolish would be in dire need of additional oil.

This is a parable, “a fictitious narrative of common life conveying a moral, a proverb.” (Strong’s #3850) If you don’t read this account as a parable, you’ll come away with some crazy interpretations.

The first question you want to ask yourself is, “What is the moral of the story the parable is attempting to convey?” If you’re honest, the analogy this parable is attempting to convey is that the number “ten” means complete. The number “five” would be 50% of the complete church. “*While the*

bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.” The entire church fell asleep. “And at midnight there was a cry made.” (Matt. 25:5-6)

The cry at midnight was the fall of the Twin Towers

I believe the fall of the Twin Towers shattered all our built-in mechanisms of safety once and for all. America was very vulnerable to attack from a foreign power. What an eye opening revelation for Americans to admit. It is later than we think! The entire church had suddenly awoke, *“Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.”* (Matt. 25:6)

Proof that the church woke up was the defeat of John Kerry by the Bible Belt “blue states” of America. Christians, en masse, made it to the polls to vote.

Tim LaHaye has had great success selling 47 million copies of his Left Behind series. I know Tim LaHaye started writing these books before 9/11, but the total volume of sales exploded after the awakening date of 9/11.

It is doubtful that these particular books and the film, The Passion of the Christ, would have grossed such enormous sums of money were it not for 9/11, our wakeup call!

The foolish virgins were Calvinists

It is my conviction that the foolish virgins took the bait of the party line believers of Calvinism. The party line believer in Christ has sufficient oil to take him to heaven, provided Jesus came today. *“For he dwelleth with you (alongside), and shall be in you.”* (Jn. 14:17)

“While the bridegroom tarried.” (Matt. 25:5) The foolish virgins were caught completely unprepared because they believed in a pre-trib rapture theory, or the imminent return of Christ.

The wise virgins, although they too slumbered and slept, knew when Christ would return; not the day nor the hour, but the events that must precede His coming.

Wise virgins knew “the times and the seasons”

“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves KNOW PERFECTLY that the DAY OF THE LORD (the last 3½ years is called the Day of the Lord) so cometh (on the ungodly) as a thief in the night...But ye, brethren, ARE NOT IN DARKNESS, that THAT DAY (What day? The Day of the Lord.) should overtake you as a thief.” (1 Thes. 5:1-4)

Paul is telling Thessalonica, *“For when they shall say, Peace and safety...”* When Israel cries “Peace and safety” from all her Arab and Russian neighbors, Christ gives us a sign! The church cannot be raptured before that event transpires. The foolish virgins don’t believe that! They believe in the imminent return of Christ at any moment.

“Ye are all the children of the light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.” (1 Thes. 5:5) Why does Paul call these brethren “children of the day”? You are of the day because you know the events (not the day nor the hour), that must precede His coming.

The foolish virgins declare there is nothing, or no event, to prevent Christ's return today. This is the message of every TBN or Daystar televangelist on Christian television.

Ralph Woodrow

I don't know if I gave my friend, Ralph Woodrow, a satisfactory answer to his question, "I don't know what you mean about me selling and buying after the rapture?" To answer that question properly, the parable of the five wise and five foolish virgins must be properly comprehended first.

Are you of the DAY or of the NIGHT? This is the question I put to Ralph Woodrow, in answering his question. Do you follow the party line theologically to sell a captive audience of Calvinists? Only he is qualified to answer that question. My challenge to Ralph Woodrow was to counter Tim LaHaye with another book telling the truth, "No One Will Be Left Behind!" The falling away is the next prophetic event to transpire, not the rapture.

In the January 1, 2005 issue of Christianity Today, Hank Hanegraaff, took up the gauntlet to defend his belief in amillennialism in a book called The Last Disciple, by Hank Hanegraaff and Sigmund Brouwer, published by Tyndale House, the same publisher of the Left Behind series. The Last Disciple reached 60,000 hardcover copies over the first two months it was out. The controversy has been covered in Time magazine and on Good Morning America.

Hank Hanegraaff and Sigmund Brouwer teach that most prophecies in Revelation have already been fulfilled. This is exactly the same position of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and D. James Kennedy. *"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels."* (Prov. 1:5) The wise rely solely upon *"the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you ALL THINGS."* (Jn. 14:26) According to scripture, *"Thy word is a lamp."* (Ps. 119:105)

The foolish virgins on the "broad way"

The foolish virgins, unknowingly, had chosen the broad way that is made popular over Christian television. You're going to enjoy life, abundant living, prosperity, rap and rock and roll right into heaven. Once you board this ship called The Broad Way, your ship follows the current of the river. You are locked in by your own choices! You choose to board that eternal security ship that sails down the river called, Once Saved Always Saved. You can now feed your fleshly desires because you are secure. You've got it made! You think.

The wise virgins read the Bible for themselves like the Bereans, *"in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures DAILY, whether those things were so"* (Acts 17:11), that the Apostle Paul was teaching.

In the searching of the scriptures, the wise virgins exclaimed, Look here what Paul said, *"But of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you."* (1 Thes. 5:1) Why was Paul saying there was no need to write? For you are children of the day, hence know when your Lord is coming. *"Let no man deceive you by any means: for THAT DAY (What day? The rapture.) shall not*

come, EXCEPT there come a FALLING AWAY FIRST, and that MAN OF SIN BE REVEALED, the son of perdition.” (2 Thes. 2:3)

Is Rick Warren a John the Baptist for New Age?

Whenever the church falls away, she will go into something else! That something else is called the New Age, or the One World Religion. Has a John the Baptist finally arrived on the scene heralding this New Age concept of life? Rick Warren’s book, The Purpose Driven Life, has sold over 20 million copies and accumulated \$840 million in sales. The same crowd that took the bait of the party line are buying these books.

Rick Warren encourages his readers to “Read scripture translations and paraphrases available today; there is no legitimate reason for complicating the Good News with 400 year old English. Using the King James Version creates an unnecessary cultural barrier (morality). I once saw an advertisement that claimed if King James were alive today, he’d be reading the New International Version!” (The Purpose Driven Church, pg. 297)

Your belief system becomes the force to drive you on the highway of your choice

The point I’m attempting to drive home is that we are not on the same highway. When the foolish virgins returned from their visit with the “sellers and buyers” of books on oil, they found *“the door was shut. Afterward came also the OTHER virgins (unspotted by the world), saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.”* (Matt. 25:10-12)

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3) *“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? ...saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.”* (Lk. 14:28-30) If one starts to build a tower of Darbyism, do you think for one minute that by simply receiving a newsletter from me the preacher is going to suddenly stop building on his tower? The door of communication is already shut by his own building program! It is with this implication that I believe the foolish virgins, upon their return from buying more oil, found the door shut.

In the book, The Pilgrim’s Progress, Pilgrim was on a highway that led directly to the Celestial City. John Bunyan had a clear revelation of Isaiah 35:8-10, *“And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring (Heb.-traveling, on the go) men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: and the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”*

Paul’s final warning before departing to Rome—“The wolves are coming!”

Paul is warning the church, the wolves are coming, “not sparing the flock.” Don't you know the last words that Apostle Paul would have to say on earth before going to Rome to lay his head on a block to Caesar, had to be the most important words of his entire life. Do you know what those words were? Those words were about wolves.

“For I KNOW THIS, that after my departing (for Rome) SHALL GREIVOUS (Gk.-burdensome) WOLVES enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of YOUR OWN SELVES shall men arise, speaking perverse (distort, misinterpret, corrupt) things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore WATCH, and REMEMBER, (these final words of Apostle Paul) that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn (about wolves coming) every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.” (Acts 20:29-32)

Paul is warning the church the wolves are coming! Not maybe so, not I think so, but Apostle Paul, just prior to having his head chopped off, declares, “FOR I KNOW THIS, grievous wolves are coming!” Is your pastor prepared to meet wolves? They don’t teach this subject in Bible school. Are you going to allow the gay wolves to play in your sheepfold? How are you, as a pastor, ready to deal with a gay wolf? If you discriminate, the gay wolf has his lawyer in the wings to be very burdensome to the church. By a single lawsuit, the gay wolf can close your church down! This is the reason for “overseers”!

Take heed! It is not one man’s job to look out for wolves!

Apostle Paul concludes, *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you OVERSEERS (plural) (What do the overseers see? or look for? Wolves. This is not one man’s job to detect wolves.), to feed the church of God.”* The overseers—the elders—not only look out for wolves, but also “feed” the church of God, *“which he hath purchased with his own blood.”* (Acts 20:28)

“I have coveted no man’s silver, or gold, or apparel.”

Finally, Paul shows off his badge of authority that distinguishes him from all others. *“I have coveted no man’s silver, or gold, or apparel. Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, AND TO THEM THAT WERE WITH ME.”* (Acts 20:33-34) Apostle Paul was a successful tent maker, and supported the entire evangelistic team.

Give your money to support the weak! *“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”* (Acts 20:35) Give to help the weak!

The collection for the saints in Jerusalem, not for himself

In Paul’s instructions concerning collection for the saints to the church at Corinth, he writes, *“Now concerning THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS, (at Jerusalem—the widows and the orphans), as I have given ORDER to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.”* (1 Cor. 16:1) Paul was not even addressing the subject of tithes, but for the collection for the saints (to be sent to Apostle James in Jerusalem for the care of widows and orphans). *“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no GATHERINGS when I come.”* (1 Cor. 16:2) Paul didn’t want to make some appeal to raise money when he came to preach. Paul came to preach; have money “in store.”

