

12 November 2017 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost.

Readings: Amos 5:18–24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Matthew 25:1–13.

Theme: *Check your oil* – **Matthew 25:13**, “Therefore **keep watch**, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

INTRO: Do any of you remember “full-service” petrol stations?...



I. OIL CONNECTS/KEEPS us in faith. No oil = no faith.

Lenski: “Lamps without oil are the forms of Christian life that are without the substance of this life; lamps together with oil are the forms that are vitalized by the true Christian life. We may call this oil spiritual life, faith with its works, even **the Holy Ghost** as some do.”

Cf. **Amos 5:21**, “I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.” WHY??? No oil!

Matthew 25:12, “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’” The scariest words you could ever hear.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, “We do not want you to be **uninformed**, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For **since we believe that Jesus died and rose again...**”

2 Corinthians 13:5, “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; **test yourselves**. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?”

Luther, Small Catechism, Third Article. “I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. But **the Holy Spirit** has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and kept me in true faith.”



II. The Holy Spirit GROWS our faith. No oil = no growth.

1 John 2:27, “But the **anointing** that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as **his anointing teaches you about everything**, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.”

John 16:13, “When **the Spirit of truth** comes, he **will guide you** into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever

he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.”

Luther, Third Article, Large Catechism. “Holiness has begun and is growing daily... **The Holy Spirit** must continue that work in us through the Word, daily granting of forgiveness until we attain to that life where there will be no more forgiveness.”

Barclay: Two warnings. 1. There are certain things which cannot be got at the last minute. It is far too late for a student to be preparing when the day of the examination has come. 2. There are certain things which cannot be borrowed. A man cannot borrow a relationship with God; a man cannot borrow character; we cannot always be living on the spiritual capital which others have amassed.



III. Holy Spirit EMPOWERS our faith. No oil = no power.

Acts 1:8, “But you will receive **power** when **the Holy Spirit** has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

1 Thessalonians 1:5, “Our gospel came to you not only in word, but also **in power and in the Holy Spirit** and with full conviction.”

Mt. 25:4, “The wise ones... **took oil in jars** along with their lamps.”

Ephesians 5:18, “**be filled with the Spirit.**”

WARNING: 2 Timothy 3:1-5, “In the last days... people will be... **having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.**”



CONCLUSION:

Cf. The “Box Hill” billies. “A bubblin crude, Oil that is.”

What wise virgins say and do: “**Go** to those who sell oil and **buy some for yourselves.**” (Matthew 25:9).

Revelation 3:18, “I counsel you to **buy from me** gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.”

Sing: “Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.”