

We're going to continue on today from where we left off in this sermon series. In Australia this past week, on Monday while there in Sydney – actually Campbelltown is the name of the place which is south of Sydney; but it was on the 7th day of the Days of Unleavened Bread, the annual Holy Day, the last of the Days of Unleavened Bread and we were going through this particular series. That was part 4. Today we're continuing on with *Part 5* of the sermon entitled; *This World's Passover* and I've been very moved by this particular series, especially when we were down around the 10th day. It's amazing how much material is in scripture here, especially Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – the gospels that cover the period of time when Jesus Christ was going toward Jerusalem knowing that this was His time to fulfill the role of Passover – to die as the world's Passover and especially when we got to the point of the 10th day there, because if you remember we went back into Exodus 12 where God told the children of Israel to take the lamb from among all the lambs that they had in a family, per family and set it aside. This would be the one that was to be killed on Passover night. And that was quite a thing for a family to do because here are the children and everyone; they see this one lamb, it's set apart. You can become attached to animals.

People who have dogs and cats know that. I remember as a young boy growing up in Kansas, had a pet lamb for a while. Until one winter it didn't make it through the winter. I was pretty young at that time. We had German shepherds and stuff like that as well, but I did have a pet lamb. But you can get attached to any kind of animal when it's around much and that's what the children of Israel did. They got attached to it, it stood out, it was meant to stand out; and that's what God wanted them to do, to have a lamb that stood out amongst all the rest that they were actually going to kill and eat as a family. And when you get a little more attached like that it's a little harder to do, if you understand, having children and so forth and getting a little attached. If you just go take one out and take its life in order to eat it, that's one thing, but if you get a little attached to it, it's a lot harder.

The 10th day is the very time that God used to set aside Jesus Christ amongst the people and that was the occasion when Mary anointed Him with oil and that's where Judas Iscariot began to become upset that the money was used because, as it says there, he was a thief. And so he began to be envious and jealous that this money was used on Jesus Christ when it could have maybe been used for something else – basically for him and for his desires. But that's when that began. And then the next day, if you remember the story, the account then of Jesus Christ actually going into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey and people are crying out, 'Hosanna', they're talking about Him being of the lineage of David, of King David because they knew the Messiah was to be a descendant of King David. So all these things happening as He was going through the city there and people asking, "Who is this man?" ...because they came into Jerusalem to keep the Holy Days and the Passover season, the Days of Unleavened Bread; and so there's this great uproar in the city of those who knew about Him and knew things He'd been doing and others who didn't know about Him. So I found that very inspiring because that's the first time we've ever had the opportunity, that God has given it to us to understand the timing of some of those things – to understand the 10th day there.

We're down to, in the story flow here, going through all these different scriptures of a flow from day to day to day and we're down to a point now that's getting right up to one day within the actual timing of the beginning of Passover.

So we're going to continue where we left off with the focus that Jesus Christ had at this particular time and some of the scriptures have to do with matters of prophecy foretelling things that were going to happen concerning the Church. And again, this was a very emotional time for Him; it was a very emotional time for God Almighty. His own Son is going into Jerusalem to die for the world, for the sins of mankind and God had waited a long, long time for these things to be accomplished and fulfilled because right behind that is a great resurrection and Jesus Christ going to heaven – the only human being who has ever gone to heaven, God says. He's been in heaven for the last 2,000 years doing a work and primarily concerning His Church, the Body of Christ. That's where we were in this process of covering some of these scriptures and we're going to continue through this series to the time He actually dies and a little beyond that because again, this is that season of the year and it's an important focus that God wants us to have to go through this year by year in a little bit of a different way and God continues to teach us things at different times. This is very inspiring to be able to do that this year.

All of this was on the last day before Passover. These things were being taught concerning the Church, the instruction Jesus Christ was giving before He dies, knowing He's about ready to die, knowing that this is going to be the beginning of the Church on the Day of Pentecost that follows a little later; the establishment of the Church of God from that point forward and knowing what's going to take place with the Church for 2,000 years, knowing the suffering that people are going to go through on a greater scale because up to this point in time, in the first 4,000 years of mankind on earth, there haven't been that many that God has worked with and called; different ones that are a part of a process here that are going to be resurrected when Jesus Christ returns, a part of 144,000, but very few people actually brought to conversion in the sense of salvation in the first 4,000 years and it wasn't until the next 2,000 years that the vast majority were going to be called and moulded and fashioned to be a part of that Kingdom and to return with Jesus Christ when He comes back the second time.

We're about a day away from Passover in this story flow. Let's continue on with Matthew 25 now. We went through Matthew 24 which has everything to do, and of course the adjoining scriptures in Mark, Luke and John... but in Matthew 24 were all those things that had to do with the very end-time leading up to the time that Jesus Christ was going to return, because that was a question as He walked around the temple with the disciples. He was talking to them about the magnificence of what was there and then He talked about a time that was coming, because they were asking about *His* coming, and He told them there was coming a time when there wouldn't be one stone left upon another; and then He went into the prophecies of what that was all about, and it's about the Church and what was going to take place in this end-time, something that the Church has already experienced. We're well beyond that now.

And so some of the instruction continued on and here we have the parable of the 10 virgins. So in **Matthew 25:1** it says **Then the Kingdom of Heaven shall be likened to ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom.** Again, this focus over and over again here has to do with the Church; it has to do with instruction concerning the Church and things that were going to happen in the Church. And so He's saying the Kingdom of Heaven, the Kingdom of God, over and over again...because His focus is upon the beginning of the Kingdom of God. What is that beginning? Its beginning is when Jesus Christ returns. That is the establishment of the Kingdom of God, finally, on earth. That's why as He was going into Jerusalem, the Jews at that time honestly thought – they believed, those who believed He was the Messiah because of all the miracles – they truly thought because of what the prophecies are concerning the Messiah that He was coming into Jerusalem at that time to establish the Kingdom of God, which means that the Roman government would no longer exist, that the Kingdom of God would surpass that, that God was going to give to the Messiah the power and

the might to establish government on the Earth and that they would no longer be under the harsh Roman rule; and that was their desire. That was their excitement as He was coming into Jerusalem; they didn't understand He was coming in to die as their Passover. And so Jesus Christ's focus then is about the Kingdom of God when it does come, not in His first coming, but in the second coming and that's what He's talking about here over and over again. So He gives this example now about the Kingdom of God because the Kingdom of God is what comes with Jesus Christ – those in the Family of God when He returns and that government that is *finally* established on the earth. That's why we continue to talk about, what's written in the books and so forth, is that we're at that point in time, just as much as Judah at that time was at a point in time that the Messiah was coming the first time as a Passover, the excitement that began to come over some people and masses of people as well as time went along even though they didn't understand it all.

We are at a particular time where He's about to come again and God is going to very powerfully, as time continues on, as we get closer to those events that are going to take place, let the world know that indeed the world is at a point in time where it's getting turned upside down, where man's government is *no longer going to exist on the earth*, because the Messiah and the prophecies about the Messiah are the establishment of God's rule on earth. Man has ruled himself for 6,000 years. What an incredible thing! And every government that man has ever tried has failed. No government has succeeded. No one has succeeded in bringing about peace on this earth and yet people try. The United Nations can't bring about peace on the earth. We can't go into other countries and give them peace. We don't even have peace here in some regards as far as life is concerned and the quality and the freedom of life that everyone desires deep down inside but can't have. Incredible! And so we're at that point in time where God is going to say, "Now it's over. You've had your time, you've proven you can't govern yourselves, you can't rule yourselves." And God's going to rule. It's an exciting time, and a lot on the earth don't want that to come, but that's what's coming, just as much as the rulers didn't want Jesus Christ to come at this time...and *they knew* these things were being done by God. So many of those leaders, they acknowledged, they knew the things that were taking place could be done by no other power, by no other means than by God and yet they rejected it because their concern was the Roman government – that they would lose authority, that they would lose power as far as the Roman government was concerned and they were concerned they were going to lose religious power because Jesus Christ over and over again condemned them for what they were teaching and for what they were doing because they weren't teaching God's way...the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Zealots and so forth. They weren't teaching about God. Oh, they taught certain things about using God's name, but they weren't teaching God's way on the earth and they weren't living it. And it's the same with what we find today in the world.

So continuing on here, the parable of the 10 virgins: **Then the Kingdom of Heaven be like unto ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom.** Again, virgins are used here as those whom God calls and begins to cleanse their life, begins to purify, begins to forgive them through Jesus Christ, through the Passover – that we can be forgiven of sin; and to live a new life and the scriptures refer to those as being virgins, they're being purified and cleansed in every way. And it says **... they went forth to meet the bridegroom.** Well, that's everyone that comes into the Church, whether it is now, or whether it was 100 years ago, or whether it was 1,000 years ago, or the beginning of the Church at Pentecost 31 A.D. Everyone begins a journey when God calls them into the Church and that journey is to meet the bridegroom, eventually to come to a point in time where they can be changed from mortal to immortal, from physical to spiritual. And that's our desire, to become a part of the Kingdom of God, to become a part of God's Family; and of course that is to go out to meet Jesus Christ.

So going on here it says, **Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.** The example being used here when someone is wise, in other words, they went through the routine of those things they should have been doing in the sense of prayer and study and so forth. The foolish, they went through the motions of things, but they really didn't involve themselves, they weren't really seeking to grow as they should have been. And so that's the example that is given here in scripture as well over and over again, whether it be in Proverbs or throughout the New Testament.

Then **verse 3** it says, **Those who were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:** So the symbolism here of oil is the spirit, God's spirit, a desire to grow in God's spirit. And if you don't apply yourself to this way of life, if you don't *seek* to be fed spiritually, if you don't have that desire within you then you're not growing, you're not using the oil that God has given, the spirit that God has given. So God desires us to use His holy spirit so that there is a light, so we can be a light, and so we can be a light in the world. You can't do it on your own power. You can't do it by your own ability! That's the whole proof of the first 4,000 years; and especially of the Jewish people and Israel. The proof and the example, the witness is, even though they were given God's law they couldn't keep it. And they were given God's law on the Day of Pentecost. Beautiful stories in the Bible like this...they came to mount Sinai, God gave the commandments. He gave the 10 commandments on the Day of Pentecost and yet the example through Israel's history is even though they had the law and the truth of God's way of life, they couldn't keep it on their own. Human beings can't obey God on their own. It says, 'the carnal mind is enmity against God.' It fights against; it resists what God tells it to do. And that's the story of mankind until the day of Pentecost when God showed *how* you can keep His way of life, the only way a human being can do that is with God's spirit and God gives us the blessing of His holy spirit so we can begin to obey and begin to keep His way of life, to be motivated through the power of God's spirit.

And so that's the story here that's taking place; the foolish didn't do what they should have been doing – they didn't even bother. **But the wise took oil with their vessels with their lamps.** So they understood, they had a desire there, a basic desire, but they still weren't doing what they were supposed to as the story goes on to show. **But while the Bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.** There was going to be 2,000 years before Jesus Christ would return and this leads us up to the very end when the bridegroom is coming in the context here of what's being discussed. It says ... **while the Bridegroom was delayed...** in other words there's a span of time here and people become weary as they are continually looking for... I remember Mr. Armstrong talking about the return of Jesus Christ. It was a *great focus* we had in the Church through the period called Philadelphia; and we had this great desire within us, which everyone has to have if they really want God's way of life. But we understood we were in the end-time. We didn't know how long it was going to be, but there was that sense of urgency that Mr. Armstrong always had and gave to the Church if people could receive it – a *desire* for God's Kingdom. We were always told to plan 10 years ahead, but to understand things could happen more quickly because we didn't know when it was going to take place; we didn't know when Jesus Christ was going to return, but we knew we were getting closer. God gave him that because of prophecies, especially prophecies concerning Europe and prophecies of 6 revivals that have already taken place of the Holy Roman Empire and one more that was prophesied to take place...that's getting closer now. We see it happening.

Isn't that an awesome thing? With the knowledge you have, to be able to see what's happening in Europe today, to see things starting to fall into place in Europe now because of the Euro and because of the European Union and their squabbling amongst themselves. Because there are those core people, that have a desire to have a strong union. They call it a United States of Europe. A desire to have a strong United States of Europe that would be the greatest, in that respect, power on the earth. That's

their focus, that's their desire. But they're having a difficult time right now because of Greece, and because of Spain. What is that word they use? PIIGS – Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece, Spain. Incredible! They're not getting along. There are those that are pulling back – Greece is still a problem, Spain is a problem – it has the highest unemployment in Europe right now. I think it's at 19%. And so they're having troubles, and you see the squabbling that's taking place here and you can see how eventually it is going to happen exactly as it says in prophecy...there's coming a time when they're going to give themselves to one voice – 10 of those nations out of the 20 odd that are going to be there at some point in time here.

We see those things coming to pass. We see them coming together, with one more revival to rise here. And so we see that we're getting closer to the end of the time. And it says, **And so while the Bridegroom delayed they all slumbered and slept.** What happened to the Church? Laodicea! It was prophesied to take place. Talks about being lukewarm, it talks about that process of what would happen – that God would spew His own Church out of His mouth...the word is 'vomit' in the Greek language. An era of God's Church. Incredible to understand. He said that there would be an apostasy, the prophesies we've read about, the prophecy we read about in Matthew 24 just before this, before the parable of the 10 virgins... it's all a part of a flow that Jesus Christ is giving and He's talking about those things that lead up to His return. And so He talked about an apostasy that would take place: something that I lived through, that some of you have lived through that were a part of the Church back in the 70's and 80's. And to think that God's people, God's Church could turn against the Sabbath? Could turn against Passover? To turn to other ideas that they were called called out of? Incredible! It says, **So they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard, Behold, the Bridegroom is coming; go out to meet Him.** And so it's talking about a moment in time when *finally* there's this which shakes the Church. He's coming! What's an awesome thing to understand some of the prophecies, to understand when some of that happened. After the scattering took place, after the spewing out took place because of slumbering and sleeping it shook the Church up when the apostasy took place. Not everyone. Some were so asleep they couldn't be awakened out of it; but there was a core group of people, about 1/3 of the Church that was shaken to its foundations. Others, because they didn't know how this could happen to God's Church... How could something like this happen? How could a Church that had held onto the Passover all of a sudden have some go back to Easter? How is that possible? The Catholic Church did away with Passover in 325 A.D.. That was the Council of Nicaea. They did away with Passover and instituted Easter as an observance. Incredible the things that have happened in history – that all a person has to do is go into encyclopaedias to read about. And yet the world doesn't know about it.

And then it goes on to say here, **At midnight a cry was made, Behold, the Bridegroom is coming;** He's returning. And what we learned in time was then the 1st Seal had actually been opened, the 1st Seal of Revelation at the very time that the apostasy took place. That was the beginning of the end, a countdown had begun. So it was a cry to the Church: Jesus Christ is now returning! We didn't know exactly when but we knew the countdown had already started because when the Seals began to be opened by Jesus Christ – powerful things begin to happen within the Church. It says, **Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.** So the example here is with the 10 virgins showing something that was taking place, again, it's a parable. And it says **...they arose and trimmed their lamps.** When you're shaken to the core of your being – those who can be shaken, were shaken, wise and foolish...**And the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil; for our lamps are going out. And the wise answered, saying, No, lest there is not enough for us and for you: but go you rather to those who sell,** and it's not a matter of going 'to those', it's saying that they should be going to God. It's a word that means 'toward'; **but rather toward who sell, and buy for yourselves.** And we

understand what that means. Where does God's spirit come from? If you have a desire to be filled with God's spirit where do you go? You go to God. You cry out to God. One of the first things you have to do that we understand in scripture is to repent of your sins; because we're responsible for our choices and we're responsible for falling asleep. We're responsible for not seeking God like we should. *It's our choice* to seek after God. *It's our choice* to do the things we should do. So they were told, "Do this."

It reminds me of **Isaiah 55:1-3 – Listen everyone who thirsts, come to the waters, and you who have no money; come, buy, and eat;** in other words use your energy and your life and your strength to receive those things that God gives away freely, willingly to you, with His great desire He wants to give them to you, but you've got to *seek* after them. You've *got to want them and you've got to go to the source*. It's not just something that comes through osmosis, or somehow we deserve it. We don't deserve it—indeed. It says, **yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread? and your wages for what does not satisfy?** That's the way we are as human beings – continually seeking after a fullness in life that man can't receive because it comes from God. The fullness in life comes through obedience to God and God's way... just like family. We've talked about that. What an awesome thing to understand that God's law has to do with family. It's about love; and yet human beings see it as *restrictions*. The first four have to do with a relationship with God because it's *family*. God wants to have a family relationship with us. That's why Jesus Christ gave to us understanding that *God is our Father; He wants to be a Father to us*. Not as physical human fathers who are selfish by nature because we all are; but unselfish, giving. We're not deserving of what He is offering us and giving to us. And so He desires to be a Family with us.

And then the last six commandments have to do with our relationship with others...and people don't like those. People want to say they're done away with; they're nailed to the 'cross'. Give me a break! "You mean it's okay if I go out and steal your car, take your car?"

"Oh no, that's a good law."

"Oh, it's okay to commit adultery."

"No, that's a good law." And yet well over half the population in the United States does it; people who are married, way over half commit adultery regularly in marriages. It's not about family. That destroys families. Sick world we live in; filthy, sick world...because man doesn't want to obey God and doesn't understand that by obeying laws is what builds family. It's what *makes* family. It's what *produces* the closeness of those things we desire in family. Anyway, going on and on here...awesome to understand the laws reveal those things to us, a right family relationship.

So He says here, come and imbibe of those things... why do you spend time, energy, money for that which doesn't satisfy? Just like when you... He's talking about physical food. You eat it and your hungry again. It doesn't take very long; couple hours... it doesn't satisfy... just for a little while. And that's what the example is here; but God's way satisfies, it continues on if you live it.

Listen careful to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Because that's what God wants to give – abundance of life, fullness of life, happiness. **Incline your ear and come to Me, hear and your soul shall live;** your life, you will live. But that's up to us whether or not we will listen and the world has chosen not to listen to God. And you think of all people in the time of Christ – surely the Jewish people at that time would want to listen to God and want to listen to who it was that God sent. They didn't; instead they wanted to put Him to death and man hasn't changed much today at all. *People hate the truth!* They *hate* knowledge of the Passover. They *hate* knowledge about the 7th day; because "Oh, God wouldn't require you to keep the 7th day Sabbath! It's okay to go out to the football game on Saturday; God wouldn't expect you not to enjoy yourself! It's okay to do those things

on God's Sabbath! And God wouldn't be so restrictive...it's okay if you do it on Sunday – God doesn't mind! ...if you just give a day to Him; if it's a different day." And some religions come along and say, "No, it should be Friday." Muslims... "Friday should be our day of worship." And then some oriental places – "Monday is our day of worship." There are very few on the earth who want to have the Sabbath! Amazing! Man is amazing.

Going back to **Matthew 25** – yes, God *does require of us* obedience. He made us. He is our God. It's an awesome thing; and what is man that he will tell his Creator, his Maker how to treat Him. No, if we want to be right with God, God says there is a way of life to be lived and only one way that's right, only one way that produces fruit, only one way that's good for you; and if you want to yield to that you'll have incredible blessings; but if you want to continue to fight and resist you're not going to succeed.

Verse 10 - And while they went to buy, the Bridegroom came; so time passes; some started going through the motions, they started going through and doing those things they should have been doing...some of those who were foolish. Awesome parable, because you see this parable hasn't come alive until now. This parable really hasn't come alive for the Church until the very end-time. There were lessons to be learned. There were lessons to be learned for the past 2,000 years for people, but the actual timing, the actual occurrence of this parable couldn't take place until now, just before Jesus Christ returned and as He returns – this is what leads up to the very return of Christ. Because of what happened in the Church people were shaken and scattered in different areas and different places and all you have to do is look at our history. I don't want to go back through that again; I don't have time for that.

Verse 10 - and while they went to buy the Bridegroom came; and those who were ready... there used to be a time in God's Church that we used to think, because we didn't understand the parable very well; we thought the five wise were the ones who made it and the five foolish never did because they were foolish, they never did what they should have done; and so they're not going to make it. So the five wise finally came through it but the five foolish never did. That's what we used to teach in the Church, and that's not what this says. It doesn't say the five wise made it. It says **those who were ready went into Him to the wedding and the door was shut.** So, who was it? You know when they heard the Bridegroom was coming... because there's more to the story than just seeking after God's spirit. There's more to the story than going through the motions and praying and studying and so forth.

Going on here...**Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.** Sad thing. It's a parable that goes through time; it actually goes all the way up to the last 100 years... **and He answered and said, Assuredly I say to you, I do not know you.** Awesome that that could happen in God's own Church; that there are those who could go through the motions of things and yet God could say to them "**I don't know you.**" Just because you go to the Feast of Tabernacles, just because you keep the 7th day Sabbath, just because you tithe and you obey and do the things you're supposed to be doing... is that all that it's about? It's a lot more than that; it's about how you live, it's about what's inside of you, it's about your relationship with God and whether it's really there or not. It's more than just going through the motions...that isn't what God wants.

Reminds me of **John 10.** Again, incredible teachings that Christ gave just before He died because these were on His mind, things about His Church that God was giving to Him, understanding of those things that were going to happen in the future to His own Church, the Body of Christ. He is the head of the Church, He *is* the Body – that's what we're named after, the Body of Christ, The Church of God. When you're baptized and you have hands layed upon you that's what you enter into – the Body of Christ, the

Church of God. And so in **John 10:4** it says - **And when He puts forth His own sheep**, speaking of Christ, **He goes before them, and the sheep follow Him**: now if they don't follow, which has happened in the Church in a massive way in recent time... What happens? Well if you don't follow you go off and do your own thing, you go off in your own direction. You take some of the truth with you that you've received; things about the Sabbath perhaps and then you start changing things, you start *altering* it and doing *your own thing* rather than what God gives you to do. It says, **for they know His voice**. So those who truly follow Him know His voice, something that God grants, something that God gives. **Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, for they will flee from him: for they do not know the voice of strangers**. They're able to detect, they're able to know. If there's a true relationship with God and they're truly following as God has given them direction, then they're going to be tuned into that voice and other voices they're going to hear and they'll realize that's not of God because they're going to see error. It's going to be clear to them. Things like 14-15th Passover that's taught. They're going to understand: no, that's not of God, that's wrong. Pentecost being kept at different times: no, that's wrong. Different changes that different ones have come along and made: no, that's wrong. And they'll follow what is true and the voice that speaks what is true because that's what God gives through the power of His spirit.

Verse 14 – He says, **I am the good shepherd, I know My sheep, and am known by My own**. So He knows His and we're blessed to know Him. Incredible. **As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father: and I lay down My life for the sheep**. That's exactly what He did. **And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice**; speaking all the way into the future, speaking all the way into the Great White Throne in the hundred years beyond the next thousand when all human beings who've ever lived and died will have an opportunity to be resurrected back into a physical life again, back into a physical body again. What an awesome thing that Revelation talks about a second death and preachers in the world *don't touch that one*. You know why? Because they don't understand; How can you live twice? If you're going to have a second death then that means you've got to be in a physical body twice and they don't understand it because they don't understand God's plan. They think when you die you waft off to heaven or you go down to this place where you're tormented for all eternity, that God is some kind of a fiendish God, that if you don't obey Him He wants to see you tortured and jump around these hot coals of fire and have these little things running around with these hot pitchforks stabbing you in the butt! Just calling it what they think! That's what they think. Perverted – sick... that's what they think about God. That's not God!

God says that if you don't follow Me, if you don't live this way of life, if you choose to go differently, if that's what you choose when you're given that opportunity, it's death for all eternity, never to be resurrected from again. That's what eternal death is, that's what the eternal punishment is. It's not being *eternally* punished; it's the eternal *punishment* – one that lasts for eternity, one you can never be resurrected to life again, physical or spiritual. And that's what God does. We just go away; we turn back to dust never to be resurrected again. That's the merciful God we serve; not one who has a desire to see people tormented and tortured like the Catholic Church started teaching. That's where it came from. All the protestant teachings in this world come from the Catholic Church: the trinity, Easter, Christmas – the mass of Christ. Didn't come out of the Bible. Amazing! Came from the Catholic Church. Going to heaven, going to hell – came from the Catholic Church. It's not in the Bible. Jesus Christ made it very clear, 'No man has ascended into heaven but one.' One. Everybody else just dies and waits for a resurrection. Jesus Christ said, God said, "You're dust. You're made of dust and that's what you return to." We don't have an immortal soul in us. That came from the Catholic Church – that you have an immortal soul in you so that when you die you *have* to go someplace...you have to go to hell or you have to go to heaven or you get stuck in between; and if the priest prays enough for you, you might get out.

That's what they teach. Incredible! Think God is pleased with those kinds of things that have deceived mankind for the last 2,000 years? Not at all. That's why the Jews at that time, in the time of Christ, Christ condemned them, called them hypocrites and liars. Amazing... He didn't use nice words. He called them what they were.

So He says, **even other sheep I have which are not of this fold, them I must also bring and they will hear My voice and they will be one flock, and one Shepherd.** And so God looks forward to the time that everyone's going to have the opportunity of becoming a part of the Church of God. That's God's plan.

Let's go back to **Matthew 25:13**. So after this parable of the 10 virgins this is what Jesus Christ was working up to. This is the instruction He's giving to His Church for the future, because the Church doesn't start until the Day of Pentecost and that was after His death and after His resurrection. And so this is what He gave them. He says **Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of man is coming.** This is awesome to understand the context of what's being said here. **...you don't know the day or the hour that the Son of man is coming.** So what is the parable? What's the importance of the parable of the 10 virgins? The importance is that the wise and the foolish weren't doing what they should have been doing. They had to all be shaken up because they weren't doing the things they should have been doing. Being wise and seeking, in the sense of going through the process of prayer and study and so forth, is a part of being wise, but God said to also watch to be alert, to be spiritually alert, to be spiritually on guard in your own life and those things have to do with matters of repentance and a matter of drawing closer to God through that part of the process as well, and we've spoken of this during this sermon series.

So His instruction is **Watch you therefore, for you don't know the day, or the hour, that the Son of man is coming...** because the reality is it isn't a matter of His actual physical return, meaning physical time and something you can actually see that is manifested to mankind because that has to be a physical manifestation of something when it's revealed in the heavens and man can see it. He's not talking specifically about that. That's what it leads up to. But for all the Church in 2,000 years that were to follow... for each individual who's called into the Church *this* is the life they must be living. They must be wise, seeking after God and they must be spiritually alert and on guard because He says, **I come as a thief in the night.** You don't know in what hour I'm coming. So for each individual the point in all of these parables that Jesus Christ is giving is that anytime that you begin to drift away, anytime that you're not seeking after God like you should, anytime that you're not repenting and going through the process that you should be going through that God outlines for us in scripture... that is the time, for you, that Jesus Christ has come. Because what is our desire? To live this way of life, to be able to die and to be in that first resurrection – talking about times past, not now, but times past. That's been the desire of everyone who ever came into the Church, a desire to be resurrected, a desire to be there when Jesus Christ returns. So for each individual who didn't live that way of life – for them Jesus Christ came as a thief in the night and there are going to be many who are not going to be resurrected that had an opportunity to live this way of life. And we have witnessed that as well.

Let's turn over here to, back to **Matthew 24** because there's something else we need to tie in here that's inspiring and exciting to grasp and comprehend why the world doesn't see and understand. But you can't explain this to them, like in radio interviews and so forth that I've had, you can't tell them these things. Again, over and over again He states that He will come as a thief because if we don't live this way of life what we have is taken from us, we don't have it anymore. If we don't have a right relationship with God, whatever time period it has been in the last 2,000 years... I think of the people,

some of those when I came into the Church back in 1969 and I think of some of those, even in the ministry and '72 and in '74 who began to leave the Church because they didn't like some of the things Mr. Armstrong was doing, or what was being taught or what God was revealing to the Church – and so they went off and did their own thing and they went away from the Church and they took congregations with them. I remember some of the uprising of things that happened – like Washington, D.C., all those churches and hundreds of people; Hawaii, the whole state! And all the hundreds of people in those regions there in the Church of God at that time. They left; and for them, you see, this is exactly what happens to them. They're not going to be in that first resurrection. Jesus Christ came to them as a thief in the night because they didn't continue to do the things they should have done. Awesome what has happened to us, what we've gone through.

Matthew 24:36 – notice what He says here in the prophecy that's taking place about the Church and about the end-time and about His eventual literal return. But of all of this, He says, **But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, but My Father only.** If you truly understand the context of what this is all about. It isn't even about His literal return. It's about exactly what He's been telling the Church; because God calls each and every one of us. We, each and every one of us have a relationship with God and how we live is what God is concerned about, that we are faithful to the end, not just wise servants but faithful, as it says, and wise servants, which again has to do with being watchful and alert. That has to do with being faithful. If someone doesn't live by that then Jesus Christ comes to them as a thief in the night because they didn't live what they should have done and they lose, it's taken away from them what they thought they had.

Verse 37 - But as the days of Noah were, so also is the coming of the Son of man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark...so literally that's the way the world is all the way to the end, but so it is at different times for God's people throughout the ages.

Continuing on here in **Matthew 24...** that's why it says in **verse 42 - Watch therefore:** that's exactly what Jesus Christ ended with in the parable of the 10 virgins. Watch! Be spiritually alert! Be spiritually on guard! *Understand what you're capable of doing* if you begin to drift away. *Understand what you're capable of doing* if you don't obey God. *Understand what you're capable of doing* if you don't repent of sin. That's why during this sermon series – I have been crying out and talking about relationships. If we have *any* wrong feeling toward *anyone* in the Body or in the world in the sense of not forgiving someone... that's sin. That's sin! And if we're not repenting of that kind of sin, of not having a right relationship with people and how we think about others, and how we treat others, how we talk to others, how we act toward others... if we're not repenting of it when we make mistakes, when we do what is wrong, when we go back to our own selfish nature and we don't repent, then we're not being spiritually on guard and spiritually alert and the things we think we have – we'll lose, because God requires us to be spiritually alert and spiritually on guard and that has to do with *how you live your life.* It's not just going through the motions of the Sabbath and the Holy Days and so forth. It's what you live *all* seven days of your life, of the week.

Watch therefore for you don't know the hour that your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have allowed his house to be broken into. So again, this example of a thief, because what's important to understand is that as God moulds and fashions and works with each one of us He has a relationship with each one of us through that process until we come to a time we no longer repent, until we come to a time where if that happens to anyone that they're no longer seeking and doing the things they should

be doing – then they can lose what they have. And for them, in reality, Jesus Christ came as a thief in the night *and you don't know when that can happen in life*. You don't know the day or the hour that Jesus Christ will return for you. I have a lot of friends, hundreds and hundreds of people I've known in God's Church who for them that day has already come. They didn't know what day or hour it was going to happen for them, but for them it's all but said and done unless they be awakened out of sleep at this point in time, spiritually. They have to wait a thousand years before they're resurrected and given an opportunity to repent and continue on. And so this parable is for them. These parables are about those desires that God has for His people and His Church. It's about His Church and how we respond, or don't respond to what God has given to us. It's great love being poured out upon the Church – final instruction before He dies of those things we need to be on guard against, alert to, because these are the things that will entrap us in life if we're not careful, if we're not constantly on guard – spiritually, day by day by day. To understand what we're capable of doing as human beings; to understand how *selfish* our nature is. We are by nature *inward!* We are by nature *selfish!* That's just the way we are as human beings and we have to acknowledge that. That's why Paul spoke like he did, after 25 years as God's apostle and he said, 'Oh wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of death...' because he saw what he was as a human being. But he said that what he desired was that which is the inner man, the truth that God has given in the mind and that's what he fought for and he realized then through Jesus Christ the ability of being forgiven, of what he could accomplish and do and live and that's passed on to us.

Notice what it says here **verse 44 – Therefore you also be ready:** constantly! It's a state you have to be in all your life whether you were in the Church in Philadelphia back in the 60's or the 50's or the 40's or the 30's or in Sardis, back in the 1800's, or farther back in Thyatira that lasted over a thousand years – that era of God's Church... or back in the beginning of Ephesus, the beginning of the Church of God; that period of time. It says, **Therefore be you ready for the Son of man is coming at an hour you don't expect.** And our desire is is that when we die that we've lived faithfully and have been watchful and alert and when He's resurrected we'll be there with Him.

Who then is a faithful and wise servant...it isn't enough to be a wise, and you definitely can't be foolish and not do the things you know you should be doing when it come to prayer, when it comes to study, when it comes to drinking in of God's way of life. And then it goes beyond that. What are you going to do with it now that you have prayed about it and studied about it – are you going to go out now and do it? That's a choice we have in life isn't it? Are you now going to do it? When you say something wrong to someone else, are you going to do what God says and get on your knees and pray to God, "Father, forgive me through my Passover." Because that's how we're forgiven of our sin.

So He says, **Who then is a faithful and wise servant whom his Master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his Master when He comes...**and it has to do with when He is coming, because for each individual it's different when He comes through time if you look at the Church and what's happened over the last 2,000 years, **will find so doing.** So it's a matter of this is what you practice, this is what you live at all moments in time in your life; you're seeking God's way of life, you're struggling against carnal human nature, you're repenting of your sins when you see them, when God reveals them to you, when they come to your understanding that this is what you've done... you repent as quickly as you can before God because we understand to not do so means you get cut off from the flow of God's spirit and the help you have to have to live this way of life. So again, Jesus Christ's instruction over and over and over again.

Let's continue on in **Matthew 25** now, going back here in the context. And this is all in context of what He's saying here to the Church. Again, a day before He dies... incredible! Well, day and a half at this particular moment in time because this is a specific moment in time here. But anyway, **Matthew 25:14** continuing on after that parable there it says - **For the Kingdom of Heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called His own servants**, so this is a story, this is about the Church of God in the next 2,000 years after He dies, **and delivered unto them His goods. And unto one He gave five talents, and to another two, and to another one; and to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took His journey.** And so it's talking here about Jesus Christ, and not being with us, being away – but has given to everyone... everyone who's called into the Church of God, everyone who has been called in the last 2,000 years to be a part of the Body of Christ has been given help from God: different abilities and talents and so forth according to whatever God has given to us in measure in life and it's how we use whatever we have that we're judged by. We're not all judged exactly the same in everything in life. We're judged according to what we have. We're judged according to how long you've been in God's Church, in one respect, how long have you been living this way of life. How long have you been...? What is expected of you? More than someone who's just called, who's starting out as a babe obviously. And then in the midst of all that different ones and different things that God is moulding and fashioning within people and that's what Jesus Christ is talking about.

Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made another five talents. So in other words, God talks about how when He sends out His spirit... if we receive it and it's working in our life it can't help but produce fruit. It'll be produced; if you yield yourself to God's spirit fruit will be produced. If we sin and we begin to cut off the flow of God's spirit then fruit, obviously, can't be produced because it requires God's spirit to produce fruit. And so this is a part of the parable here that He's talking about – whether or not, to what degree we yield to God's spirit. And so the desire that God has for us is that we all produce fruit. And a part of this is be careful how you judge. Be careful when you judge others...that we're not harsh in judgement; because a lot of judgement has to do with expectations of others, what we expect from others, to receive of others, how they should treat us and if they don't treat us a certain way sometimes we can respond back in a way we shouldn't because we have an expectation, especially within the Church of God – of different ones within the Church.

And he that had received one... so it talks about the two and it says the one individual **received one; he dug a hole in the earth, and hid his Lord's money. And after a long time the Lord of that servant comes, and reckons with them. And so he that received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, you delivered unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside that five talents more.** And the point being in all this too is not just that the one who only had one didn't produce here, because someone that can receive five or have ten, it doesn't matter... its how you use them that counts. That's the point in all this. **And his Lord said unto him, Well done, you good and faithful servant: you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter you into the joy of My Lord.** That's an awesome thing to understand as well here that there are little things in life that we have to live. Sometimes we don't realize how important the living the little things in life are all about – how you treat someone, how you act toward someone...a stranger, someone that you come in contact with. Doesn't matter where; on a street, in a store, whatever... it's your attitude of mind toward them and how successful you are sometimes in fighting your own battles and attitudes towards people. So He says, if we're faithful in living God's way of life toward others then we'll produce fruit and He says He will give us far, far more.

Verse 22 - He also that has received two talents came and said, Lord, you delivered unto me two talents: behold, I have gained another two talents beside that. And his Lord said unto him; Well done,

good and faithful servant; see it's not just a matter of being wise, it's this matter of being faithful over and over again; because these individuals used what God gave them to produce fruit. The point being is that if someone had 10 or 5 or 2 or even 1 and produced the same amount, then they've been faithful in what they were given because that means God's spirit has been coming into their life and they've been able to produce; because God's spirit demands growth! If we're yielding ourselves to God's spirit, you will have growth – that's a promise of God! If you continue to yield yourself to God and fight the fight and do the things that God says and repent as you sin, you will grow. It's an awesome thing.

And so He said here, **Well done, you good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter you into the joy of my Lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew that you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not strawed:** What a sick attitude! It's like the parable we read last week on the High Day, like some of those parables there – it's what we do with what we have; it's what we produce. But here's an example of an individual... he says, I know that you have given me, in other words, like a vineyard as an example...and you rent out the vineyard as we talked about last week; and if an individual comes along they're to produce in that vineyard and yet the individual who rented it out – he's far away and he doesn't do the work – *because it's his vineyard!* So he doesn't do the work, the one who rents it out – he's the one that's going to profit from it. He didn't have to pay for the vineyard, but he gets the opportunity of renting it and being able to use it and do the work of taking care of the grapes and bringing in the grapes and the harvest and making the wine and whatever else, or whatever else might be grown...it doesn't matter whether it's livestock – but yes, they're the ones that have to do the work. What an attitude of human beings when they don't grasp what God has given to them. And that's the example that's given here and that's the way we are sometimes as human beings.

We don't grasp what God has really given to us – the blessings. He's given us *everything we have, every breath of air you draw* – God gave it. Your ability to eat and drink and have life – God gave it! I didn't deserve it, *you don't deserve it*; but a very loving God, because He has a great plan for us, not just to live in human life, but to one day be spirit and be in the God Family is an awesome thing. They wanted to kill Christ for saying that one – talking about the God Family, talking about being with God, being greater than the angels. People don't like that – they don't understand why God made human beings. It's not to go up in heaven and be on these kind of clouds, or like some talk about in funerals... “Joe loved fishing and I know he's up there fishing today.” Oh, there are fish up in heaven huh...? ...up on those clouds. You're sitting on a cloud and you're not sinking through and you're up there fishing? That's what I want to do for all eternity is just fish for spiritual fish. What a dumb thing! Or to look upon, to gaze upon God for all eternity. What perversion is that? Is that what God wants for His creation? To one day be able to be up there in the clouds, just gazing upon Him for all eternity and maybe just saying “Hallelujah” every once in a while. “Hallelujah!” *What kind of a life is that? How ridiculous is that?* And yet that's what the world thinks about God. No, God wants a relationship. He's created the universe out there for a purpose. Awesome! Things we're going to have opportunity to do and accomplish in time. Oh, we're so limited in understanding of what God has offered us and what He's desiring for us. He desires a Family.

I'll take you back... it's good we think about these things because I'm excited about it – I'm *always* excited about it and I hope you're *always excited* about it. The Great God of the universe, the *only* God... there's no trinity, no Jesus Christ who's eternally existed, no holy ghost or whatever they want to call it... it's not a being that's eternally existed; it's the *power* of God, the holy spirit. And there's one being it says, Yahweh Elohim who's lived for eternity, and He lived before there was an angelic realm, He lived before He created the physical universe. He was by Himself. I can't comprehend that. I can't

comprehend the being we call God, to be as great as He is, to have a plan and a desire to share life with others. We can't even begin to comprehend the existence of God. It's a matter of faith. It's a matter of the existence of the universe, the existence of this earth God says, it's a matter of faith because you can't prove it physically. You should be able to in one respect, but human beings can't when they start proving things. The best they can come up with is evolution...after millions of years they finally learned how to survive... think, well... "Didn't they die off for millions of years and if they died off for millions of years how did they survive and make something else and grow into something else and create something else?" Some of the stupidity of evolution! But God was by Himself. How long? We don't comprehend time like that.

And then He had a plan to share and to have others become a part of His Family. And so what He did first was create the spiritual realm. Things made of spirit that we can't comprehend. Beings made of spirit that we can't comprehend. Different kinds of angelic beings. In Ezekiel and different places it talks about some of the spirit beings that exist. You can't see them physically because they're spirit, but it was a spiritual creation. And it says in Hebrews and other places as well... it talks about why they were created. To help in the plan later on of those who were to become a part of the Family, the God Family. And so the angelic beings were created first...and three great archangels... Lucifer, Gabriel and Michael – created greater than all the rest of the angelic beings.

And then in time as God had created those beings He began to reveal then to them, just like He does to the Church. He doesn't reveal everything all at once. Just like He hasn't revealed everything about His plan in the last 6,000 years to man: it's progressively revealed and so it was to the angelic realm. And in time He revealed to the angels, "I have a plan, a greater plan that you're a part of and now as a part of that plan I'm going to create a physical universe." And God began to bring in a physical universe. And it says, 'The angels of God shouted for joy when they began to see what God was creating.' Not in a spirit world that only spirit could see, but now something that was physical in the universe that spirit can see and enjoy. And I don't comprehend all that. I don't have the mind, the capacity to comprehend all that. But all the things that exist out here, light, that the Hubble telescope now – of things they say they can see 14 billion light years out there; that what they're seeing took 14 billion years to travel at the speed of light... 14 billion years for that light to reach the Hubble. Time has existed in this universe that we don't comprehend...stuff that's still out there that hasn't reached the Hubble yet because you see the desire of scientists is to find... "Where is the edge of the universe? How far out does it go...?" Just like when people started sailing around the world... "Where's the edge? When are we going to drop off?" ...type of thing and they were fearful to go out because they didn't know. And we're doing the same stupid thing. How far is it out there? We haven't grown too much up here in smarts. The vastness of the universe, man can't measure and he can't find the end of it. Awesome!

And then God brought creation to a point in time where He said/let the angelic realm know that I'm going to create physical human beings who will live life; that you're going to help me in, that you're going to assist me to help bring them into My Family, to the God Family to become at a plane higher than the angels.

That's what's so beautiful about Psalm 8 and that's recorded in Hebrews. I love those verses when you go through the story... and you should always love those verses. They're your life! They should inspire you to understand what the Great God of the universe is doing and why He's doing it and the *excitement* He has. After ALL this time He has one now in His Family and He's about to add 144,000 more. At the end of a 1,000 years then He's going to be able to add millions, perhaps billions...and then beyond that...

the next 100 years – the greater harvest; billions and billions and billions that can be added to the God Family. And God has waited a *long time* for all of this.

But what an awesome thing that took place. As He began to reveal those things to the angelic realm you know what they did? Lucifer didn't like it. He was created above the other angels in the sense of talent and ability, things that were created within him that God gave to him and he began to be lifted up with pride. He didn't like God's plan that beings were going to be made that were greater than him and he began to chirp like human beings do sometimes when they begin to be filled with pride and begin to talk about God. "Look what God's doing... What we have we're not going to have anymore. He's going to give it to others!" And slowly but surely a third of all the angelic realm, it says, rebelled. And Lucifer became known as Satan, Satan the devil, the adversary of God. Incredible stories. And they rebelled and there was a great rebellion on the earth and we had what covered the earth and there was no life on earth because Satan rebelled and those things that were thrown out in the universe as Satan started trying to destroy the very earth itself and all life at that time, which God had never intended to exist anyway with human beings, but all that was prehistoric... He never intended that to be life that He would eventually have for human beings. And so Satan was allowed to destroy everything in a moment. That's why you can find mammoths with straw in their mouth – frozen. And scientists can't understand these things. When did all these things happen? And they don't believe then... they don't understand the earth has been here for perhaps millions and millions of years. Even people in churches who believe that God has only had 6,000 years; they can't explain that one. How could it have been here for millions of years? They don't understand the rebellion of Satan and what took place.

And then a day came when God said He separated the firmament. It was already here. The earth was already here. He just began to separate the various things so that light could shine through to the earth again and set it on its proper orbit again. And it talks about that creation week that took place and then He put man on it on the sixth day. He put man on it and He waited for 4,000 years for His Son to come and He sent prophets...from righteous Abel all the way to Zechariah. That's what Jesus Christ speaks of, the prophets that came before, it says the world rejected, they rejected what God brought them. Even Noah's own sons rejected God. You think... "How is that possible that they could build an ark, and live through a flood and reject God at the end? See it all, witness it all and loathe God." Incredible! We don't understand so often what God has given to us. Neither did Noah's sons...that they still had life.

After 4,000 years, finally One was added to the God Family and we're at a point in time now, May 27, 2012 – 144,000 are going to be added to the Family. Incredible, the time we live in!

And so all these came back and said, Lord this is what's happened. **I know that you're a hard man**, finally the one said, **you reap where you've not sown, you gather where you've not strawed**. What a horrible attitude! It's all God's! And God says what we're to do...He told Adam and Eve what to do – to take care of the earth, groom it, take care of what I've given to you...and we don't. You drive down the highways, beautiful highways out here where they have rock, where they've taken the time to make designs. It's beautiful. You can't grow grass very well so you use a lot of rock and they do wonders with it. And some of the designs out there – beautiful! And yet you see trash because people don't care...throwing their cigarette butts and paper out the windows because people don't care. If they'd understand what they have; they don't take care of what they have, that's the nature of man. We're selfish by nature.

And so this is an attitude that continues on even toward God. He says **I was afraid, and went and hid the talent in the earth: and lo, now you have what is yours, you can have it back**. Is that what God

wants? He's looking forward just to getting everything back? ...or is it us He wants? It's us He desires to have, but with a right heart and a right spirit and a right attitude. That's why God says He looks at the heart. He wants what's inside of us. Not by force...but by choice. That's why He gives us choice to choose His way. At different stages of life He gives us that choice and that opportunity.

Verse 26 goes on to say - **His Lord answered and said unto him, You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reaped where I didn't sow, and gathered where I have not sowed:** It's all Mine, but you're to do the work. If you want God's way of life *you* do the work! If you really want what God offers you, *you* do the work. *God doesn't owe it to us!* That's the way human beings are. It's like God *owes* me this! "If I go to church every Sunday and if I just go to Easter and Christmas services..." it's like, "It's owed to me to go to heaven." Well, you're not going there anyway; nothing is owed to you! If you want it, you have to fight for it. You have to fight against your own nature if you want it. God tells us what we have to do. You have to say no to selfishness. You have to say no to sin. You have to say no to things like adultery and fornication – that this country doesn't want to do and other countries around the world don't want to do. That's why there's such a high divorce rate in the world...because people want to do something else than be *faithful*...man and woman both. Sick world we live in, truly is, and on and on it goes. Man doesn't want to have various kinds of laws about drugs and what you can take and what you can't take. He wants to do his own thing. He wants to have his own kind of parties. Sick! Man wants to steal because he wants to get ahead. Corporations want to steal because they want more. Never satisfied! Always taking advantage of others! Power! People want power and they'll sell their 'souls' for it. That's what politics does. Anyone involved in politics is a liar. Think they like hearing that? It's true! You can't be in politics and not lie. You can't be in politics and not compromise; you have to give something back that's not right. Sad! That's why no government in this world can work, doesn't succeed, can't succeed. That's why only God's government will succeed.

...you ought therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at least would have had interest at my coming . That's the way He's talking to them about. **Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him who has ten talents. For every one that has shall be given, and everyone will have abundance: but from him that has not shall be taken away even that which he has. And cast the unprofitable servant/the lazy servant into outer darkness; and there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.** Incredible parables here that Jesus gives. He's pouring out His soul for the future of His Body, the Body of Christ, the Church of God; because God's desire is that when you're drawn to the Church that you succeed. He's offering you everything. This hasn't been offered to very many through time. If you understand in the last 6,000 years... it hasn't been God's purpose to call the whole world. That's why the world doesn't comprehend it. And I feel sorry for them, the Protestant world that thinks they have to send out missionaries to save people, to speak about and talk about acceptance of Jesus Christ. "If you'll just say it, confess that you accept Jesus Christ as your personal saviour you will be saved." They don't understand what that means. But they think they have to do that, that somehow there's this great contest against Satan and that somehow *God's kind of losing it* because look at how much of the world isn't a part of Christianity. Look at how much of the world, much more is Muslim right now; much more is atheist; much more is than what can be called Traditional Christianity even. It's like God's not very powerful to save His creation then, is He? He must be kind of weak. Because they don't understand this isn't the time. The last 6,000 years, God hasn't been trying to save the world. He has sent out prophets and has sent out His ministry, He has sent out things in the Church, apostles and the like to talk about His truth, His way of life.

I think of Mr. Armstrong. Perfect example, powerful example to the world, whether man will accept what is true when he's told what is true. Millions of 'Plain Truths' printed every month and sent around

the world to nations all over this earth; television broadcasts/telecasts and radio broadcasts that went all over the earth. Far greater than any other; in time it became greater than any other religious broadcasting service in the world. And what'd the world do? They come in droves because they heard the truth? The Church only came to a point of 150,000 worldwide; because the witness is that man rejects the truth. All those millions of 'Plain Truths' that went out; all those world leaders that Mr. Armstrong visited...Invited to the Great Hall of China when no other religious leader ever had been, when even political leaders of the world hadn't been invited there, and he spoke to those in China and to other Ambassadors and people who were brought in. In the Philippines...incredible crowds that the government brought together to hear Mr. Armstrong in the time of Ferdinand Marcos. Different world leaders that he came in contact with in Jordan, Egypt... you name them – he visited them, spent time with them. Japan! Incredible that 8 members of the Japanese Diet called themselves his Japanese sons, given the highest award the emperor Hirohito could give to a non-citizen – to Mr. Armstrong. King Leopold, different ones in the world gave him honours, but not a one of them accepted his message. Not one of them accepted the truth of God's way of life. And if you want to name world leaders in a period of time in the early 80's? He saw every one of them of importance in the world. Incredible! No other person has ever done that – no one. Awesome witness of the end-time, of what man has always been like for 6,000 years – rejects God. Human nature a toughie isn't it? And yet the time is coming that God is going to get the attention of people because He's given us 6,000 years to have our own ways, our own governments, to prove to mankind, to help us to learn the great lesson: We cannot govern ourselves. If we do, we will have endless wars, jealousies and envying and fighting's, sorrow in every country on earth. And we send people to Afghanistan, we sent people to Iraq, and if we had our way we'd send people to Iran to give them a democratic society. You cannot give them a democratic society. You can't give them peace.

My wife had her nails done the other day here by an individual who escaped out of Vietnam. He was captain of a boat, a ship in Vietnam and so after the war he was able to escape and come to the United States and he was talking about some of those things...and he was talking about how we send people over to Afghanistan to die. Why? Same thing that happened in Vietnam. Why? We can't give peace... you can't bring democracy. He said the greatest threat we're not even paying attention to is China. Says we don't understand what they want to do and are planning on doing. They own the world he said. Pretty smart up here right now. They're using all the dollars we have, all the dollars they're holding and they're buying up Australia and New Zealand. While we were in New Zealand they put several billions of dollars into the dairy farms. They're buying up the dairy farms in New Zealand. They're buying up the wealth of Western Australia – the mines. They're buying up mines in Canada. They're getting rid of the dollars – that's how they're doing it. They're not holding on to it, they're buying up wealth all over the world. Every empire that's ever existed has done the exact same thing: every empire that's come into being. If time were to go on they would be the next world empire, not Europe. Incredible the world we live in.

There's so many things He instructed in. Let's go on down here to **Matthew 26**. On the evening of the day before Passover began, on the evening that started the 13th day because Passover starts on the 14th day at evening there and sundown begins the 14th day of the 1st month of God's calendar; on the 13th day, when the evening started the 13th day of the 1st month Jesus was teaching His disciples on the Mount of Olives as we talked about. He went back to that area and evidently didn't go back to Bethany that night. Every other night they've been going back to Bethany and then coming back, which is 2 miles away, and coming back into Jerusalem; and retreating back there to Bethany. And then on this particular night of the 13th evidently they stayed there at the Mount of Olives that night and as well as going into the beginning of the 14th as well in the Mount of Olives area. At that point there when they

were still up on the Mount of Olives... after that Jesus again focused upon His death and recapped some of those things that had happened. So He's going back through a bit of a history here and this is how it's recorded in **Matthew 26:1 - And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, He said to His disciples**, so here He is at that particular night, the 13th there. He said **You know that after two days of the Passover**, again, it's not the word *the feast of*, that's added to the King James here. When it's in italics there like that it's not in the Greek language. It says, **of the Passover, and the Son of man is to be betrayed to be crucified**. In other words He's going ahead here in through the 13th and in through the 14th because towards the end of the 14th is when He dies. And so He's talking about what's going to happen over a period of time of the next two days..

And He said that **the Son of man is to be betrayed to be...**and I hate that word **crucified**, because it isn't crucified in the Greek language, it's the word 'stauroo' that has to do with; 'will be impaled on a stake', or not even impaled, that's not the right word – 'hung on a stake or a tree' is what it's talking about here. It's talking about the Old Testament prophecies here and that's how He died. It was on a pole like this (arms and hands over His head)... He wasn't like this (arms opened in a lower case 't' shape)... I like to show this from area to area I go to as a whole so that people can have it deeply imbedded in their mind. The word there; it has to do with a word for 'pole' and being 'hung on a pole' and when you have nails put into your hands like that – they were put through both hands, both tied together above your head like this – not out here. And then His feet together as well and one nail there and one nail up top – that's how they did it. They didn't do it like this. That came along much later on, some of the things that happened with the Romans. But this here is a point in time in how they did it when it talks about they came around and broke the legs, because they wanted to put everybody in the grave, have them off the stakes before the High Day began. The Jews didn't want them out there on the High Day, on an annual Holy Day, so the Roman soldiers were going to go around and break the legs of the individuals. Because what happens when you have your legs broken? You will suffocate. Because when your hands are up like this you can't breathe... they would prop themselves up by the nail in their ankles and by their feet. They'd push themselves up in order to breath. Because when you're hanging like this, you will suffocate. But if you're like this (able to prop yourself up) you won't suffocate, you're be able to breathe still. And so you just try it sometime, see what it's like to put your hands up there and just get that feeling of your throat being choked off. And so when they came around and broke the legs of the two thieves...and they came to Christ, it says, they were amazed because He was already dead.

It records in John where a soldier had already come by and *pierced* Him with a spear in His side and out came water and blood, because Jesus Christ had to spill His blood to the earth. He couldn't suffocate on the stake; He had to spill His blood to the earth to be our Passover. Like the baby lambs, they had to have their necks slit in order for the blood to come out. That's what it says about the Passover lamb. He had to die that way. The Lamb of God, the Passover had to spill His blood to the earth and die; and that's exactly what happened. He wouldn't have been our Passover if He'd suffocated on a stake. Amazing some of the things that come into teaching in the world, and by Christianity so called in time that's taken place. And of course people just love those kinds of things sometimes, but that's the reality and that's the truth and we either accept it or we don't in life.

And so it's talking about this period of time here in Matthew 26; what happened to Jesus Christ, what He's saying here and He said these things are going to happen. And you know what? They didn't even get it. He says, in this period of time **the Son of man is to be betrayed and hung upon a stake...**and die, be killed, because He said that in other scriptures; and be killed. And they didn't understand it yet. They didn't know what to do after He died. They still thought He was going to be the Messiah at that time.

They didn't get it that He was going to die even though He told them again and again and again this is what's going to happen to Me. Amazing! Their eyes were just closed to it; they just didn't get it.

Going on here in **verse 3** – we came into the evening of the 13th there because at sundown it became the 13th day upon the Mount of Olives. The story is recapped here about what happened with the Pharisees; so it's bringing in a bit of the history of what happened. It says **Then assembled the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest,** and it talks about, **who was called Caiaphas,** high priest that year... **And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtlety, and kill Him.** By trickery, by deceit, by some way to take Him away so they could kill Him. That was their objective...the Pharisees, the scribes, different ones, the leaders, the Herodians – they wanted to capture Him somehow so they could kill Him, put Him to death. That was their objective. They *hated* what He said, they hated what He was teaching; just like people today still hate what God teaches in the world. You tell them you shouldn't keep the 1st day of the week – that's not a High Day; it's not a Holy Day with God. Oh, they become highly offended. They hate you for it.

"You should obey the 7th Day Sabbath!"

"Oh, who told you? That was all nailed to the cross that stuff about the Sabbath." That's what they want to nail to the cross, is the Sabbath; it's not the laws about adultery and killing others or stealing...it's *that* law. They hate it.

And it goes on to say here, **and they consulted that they might take Him by subtlety, and kill Him. And they said, Not on the Feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people.** So they had a plan here; and it's amazing the timing, how God orchestrated it all, allowed people to get stirred up because God knows the reactions of human beings. He *knew exactly* what was in Judas Iscariot's heart and He *knew exactly* what it would be that would stir him up to betray Jesus Christ. All started with the oil – money. He was a thief and he hated and loathed what happened to Christ with the oil, that Christ basically corrected him for some of the things that were being said and when Mary put that oil all over Jesus Christ's body and He said, "She's done this for My burial." And they still didn't understand He was going to die.

Going on here; **Now when Jesus was in Bethany,** so it's going back to what happened, **in the house of Simon the leper, There came to Him a woman, who was Mary, having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on His head, as He sat at meat.** They had that meal together as we talked about, that Friday night was the Sabbath meal that they had together, the Friday evening after sunset; and it was at that meal on the 10th day that set the Passover apart, the Passover lamb. **And when His disciples saw it, they had indignation,** so some individuals who were following, not speaking of all 12 of the 12 disciples because everyone is referred to as a disciple that followed Christ; **saying, To what purpose is this waste?** It was Judas Iscariot that started this around, just like Lucifer; chirp, chirp, chirp, trying to cause a little division, trying to spread things around, finding fault with Jesus Christ, finding fault with what was being done and how it was being done.

For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor. And as we read other scriptures earlier, his desire was not to give it to the poor, but that's what he was saying. **When Jesus understood it, He said unto them, Why do you trouble this woman? For she has worked a great work upon Me. For you have the poor always with you; but Me you don't have always. For in that she has poured out this ointment on My body, she has done it for My burial.** And what's awesome is they never understood this yet – that He's getting ready to die. **Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, this also shall be what this woman has done, be told for a memorial of her.**

And then in **verse 14** it says, **Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,** so it wasn't on that particular night here, it's coming up to that point in time. This is where it started. But now, because of what happened here, now he did go to the chief priests and from all indications here it was on the morning of the 13th that he went to the chief priest finally to betray Christ. It says, **then one of the twelve,** and it talks about that and said **What will you give me that I will deliver Him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.** And so he was going to betray Christ for 30 pieces of silver and it says... **And from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.** How he could betray Him, how he was going to be able to do this. Judas went and talked to them, that he was going to betray Him, how he might be able to accomplish it, and he started doing this scheming. And finally on the night of the 14th is when he actually went to do some of the betrayal; and how he brought some of the leaders and so forth to take Christ.

Let's back up and pick up part of this in Luke now. **Luke 22:** because Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – they continue with the story flow here but you have to jump back and forth sometimes to see something that might be said by one that isn't stated by the other. In **Luke 22:1** we're finally coming to the daylight portion of the 13th, of the Passover... it was drawing to a close, the 13th was and it says here - **Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover.** People in Traditional Christianity read this and they don't understand what on earth they're reading because they don't understand Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. That's why I'm dumbfounded as we've been going through this here that the timing is all messed up when they don't understand the days in which Jesus Christ suffered and the day He actually died because they think He died on a Friday. He didn't die on a Friday because it talks about a Sabbath, but they don't understand it's not the weekly Sabbath, it's the 1st Day of the Days of Unleavened Bread. That's the time period that the Jews wanted Him killed; before that day began which was on Thursday. They wanted Him killed before Thursday so they pushed it ahead to Passover day, the day before. And this was their plan all along – to kill Him ahead of time. It just happened to be it was on the Passover, the very day that pictures when the Passover had to die for all of mankind. He couldn't die on any other day and so He was actually going to be put to death on Wednesday. Incredible! Tuesday night was the beginning of Passover, went all the way through Wednesday. He died in the mid-afternoon on Wednesday. He was put in the grave right at the moment before sundown, right at the moment before sundown because they had to get Him in the grave; they had to do all these things before the Sabbath began – the *annual* Sabbath. But the world of Traditional Christianity reads that and they think it's the weekly Sabbath, and that's why they call it 'Good Friday'. Nothing good about it anyway, but they call it 'Good Friday', that He died on Friday. No He didn't! He died on a Wednesday! Amazing!!

And Jesus Christ said the only proof I'm going to give to you, the only *sign* that I truly am the Messiah is that I'll be in the grave three days and three nights. I'll be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights. And so the Protestant world tries to get it from Friday sundown, Saturday sundown to Sunday morning...that's a day and a half. And they actually go through and try to explain how that there's certain portions of each day, or whatever, and how that can be counted three days and three nights. Give me a break! He died Wednesday afternoon, put in the grave... awesome when all this took place. He was put in the grave so He was there Wednesday right at sunset. So all day Thursday is one day and then we have sunset Thursday which begins Friday. All day Friday to sunset; which Friday's sunset is the beginning of the Sabbath...and the third day was through the Sabbath. At the end of the Sabbath He was resurrected, and then the first day of the week began. They don't even understand the first day of the week, when it begins. It doesn't start in the morning, or at midnight. It started at sundown. And so the first day of the week, at sundown, they couldn't bring the spices and stuff to the grave like they'd

prepared them on Friday because they couldn't do it on the High Day on Thursday; so they went and bought spices and they had to do that on Friday, the preparation day because that was the day you could work. And so they prepared the spices but they couldn't do it on Sabbath now, the weekly Sabbath, bring them to the gravesite; and then finally sundown on Sabbath, they couldn't do it then because now it's dark out. So they waited all night. *That's* when it talks about; it says... 'He has risen'. He didn't rise *then*, Sunday morning, *He had already risen* at the end of the Sabbath and He'd been resurrected already. Through the night He'd already been alive, resurrected. Incredible! If we just understood a little bit more about what God teaches about timing and so forth.

So it says **it drew near, which is called Passover**, we understand when that begins, it's not the High Day, it's the day before. **And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him; for they feared the people.** They didn't want to take Him when the people were around because they feared the people would have an uprising then for what they were doing if they understood so they had to do this in secrecy. Liars! Connivers! *That's* how people work so often in the world. Liars and connivers when they do things like this.

Then Satan entered Judas surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. So Satan was allowed now to enter in to and follow through *with an attitude of mind that Judas already had*; and Satan just stirred it up more. *That's* what it's talking about here. It says, **and so he went his way, and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. So he promised, and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.** In other words, when the multitude wasn't around anymore he would do this.

Let's notice **Mark 14:12** – again here, all these things taking place leading up to the death of Christ, when He was taken. It says, **now on the first day of Unleavened Bread**, now it wasn't the first day of Unleavened Bread. This is how it's been translated into English because they don't know the timing, they don't understand – the world of Traditional Christianity. The word 'first' is just a word here in the Greek language – it means 'before/foremost' that's all the word means, that's how it's used. So it's **before**, in essence here, and 'day' is usually a time defined by context in the Greek language. It's not even the word 'day' oftentimes, it's about a period of time, but it's defined by the context. So if people don't know the context, if they don't understand the plan of God, if they don't understand the timing of things and events that were taking place here then they add in their own stuff and they say, '**on the first of unleavened bread.**' Well, we know that's not true. He died on Passover. They wouldn't kill Him on the Day of Unleavened Bread. So, **on the first/beginning/before**, if you will...literally means that, **before Unleavened Bread, when they killed/were to kill the Passover lamb**, in other words. So the Jews understood this. We understand it in the Church because of the timing. So we understand before the First Day of Unleavened Bread comes Passover, when the Passover lamb has to be killed. **His disciples said unto Him, Where do you want us to go and prepare that You might eat the Passover?** So even here we understand this was still on the 13th even. It wasn't even the 14th yet. They were asking Him where He wanted the Passover to be kept because this was before Unleavened Bread obviously, and even before the Passover.

Verse 13 - And He send out two of His disciples, and said to them, Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water: follow him. And wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, The Teacher says, Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples? Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make ready for us. Awesome here what took place. Here, right at the end of the 13th, right toward the beginning of the 14th this

happened quickly. They went to see where this room was to be kept, they followed the man with the pitcher and here is a room now that in the 14th, they actually started doing some of the work right away here in preparation for some of this on the 13th and 14th there, of building a fire, of getting everything ready. It says the room was already prepared; it was already layed out and ready to go for a meal, for the Passover meal; but they had to kill the lamb, they had to have all the preparation of those things take place which would take place later. But when you start a fire like that, it takes time. It takes time to get a fire hot and that's basically the main thing they had to prepare; and so they prepared that and then on the 14th as soon as it was sundown they were able to kill the lamb because you can't kill it on the 13th. So they killed the lamb and they started roasting it like God commanded. It takes a long time to roast a lamb. And so later in that evening then is when Jesus Christ would come, that night, and that's what it talks about here. It says, this individual **will show you a large upper room furnished and prepared:** it's already furnished and prepared; **there make ready for us.** And so what they had to make ready was the fire and the roasting of the lamb.

Verse 16 - So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said unto them: and they prepared the Passover. The lamb. That's what you do to prepare the Passover. It's what they had to make ready. **And in the evening He came with the twelve.** So later in the evening Jesus Christ came with all. They went back and told Him it's ready and they all went with Him then. **And now as they sat and ate, Jesus responded** here by saying, **Assuredly I say to you, One of you who eats with Me shall betray Me.** Awesome! "One of you twelve who sits with Me and eats with Me tonight is going to betray Me."

Let's go back here to **Luke 22** and continue where we left off. Again, we have to jump around sometimes because of the story flow and how it unfolds between all four witnesses here who wrote what they saw in their own words, in their own timing, some adding certain things that others didn't speak of or in the same way. **Luke 22:7 - Then came the day of Unleavened Bread,** again, it's the same wording we read earlier, **when the Passover must be killed.** So it's when the timing for Passover...and we know when it has to be killed – the beginning of the 14th, the night of the 14th. **And He sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare the Passover that we may eat. And they said to Him, Where will You that we prepare it? And He said unto them, behold when you are entered into the city, you'll meet a man bearing a pitcher of water; follow him to the house where he enters in. And you shall say to the good man of the house, The Master said to me, Where is the guest chamber, where I shall eat the Passover with My disciples? And he'll show you a large upper room furnished: there make ready. And they went, and found as He had said: and they made ready the Passover. And when the hour was come, He sat down with the twelve apostles with Him. And He said to them, With desire,** now we read some of these things on Passover night, so all of you who take Passover, some of these we have read, but we have a lot of people who listen to the webcast and the sermons on a regular basis who didn't keep Passover, who don't go through the same thing you do. So even though we did this recently, we're still going to go through this as a part of this story flow so that everyone can benefit. And obviously all those who are younger in the Church that don't keep Passover, the service itself because it's only for baptized members, we're going to review some of these things now as a part of the story flow.

And so He said, **With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer:** We can't even begin to comprehend what Jesus Christ knew and understood. He knew He was getting ready to die as the world's Passover, as the one who could take away the sins of mankind. That's why He died. He died so that we could have our sins forgiven us so that Him and His Father could dwell in us through the power of the holy spirit. That's what the story is. Because God will not dwell in sin! And so sin had to be taken care of through a Passover, one who could take upon Himself all of our sins. And so He says,

with desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer: This last Passover. “This is the *last* that will have to be observed in this manner, and I have looked forward to this time.” His Father had looked forward to it far more to when this could be fulfilled; that which didn’t fulfill anything of and by itself. The killing of the lamb year by year didn’t fulfill anything. It pictured what He was getting ready to fulfill now in His life and death; Jesus Christ. And so with mankind on the earth for 4,000 years before this, now the time had finally come for the Passover lamb to be given to mankind. And so Jesus Christ said, **with great desire I’ve desired to eat this Passover with you**, because He knew it was the last one they had to eat. We don’t eat a Passover lamb. We keep this service that Jesus Christ instituted on this particular night. It’s what Paul reveals in 1st Corinthians 11 that we read. **For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.** Long range looking into the future when they’ll eat again. This is His last meal together with them.

Verse 17 - And He took the cup, as it goes on to say here, **and He gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves:** so again here, we know the part of Passover and we’ll continue on with this in a moment, but I want to go back now and pick the story up in **John 13** because John adds a lot more to this from this point forward; recaps a little bit more and tells a little bit more of the story here.

John 13:1 - Now before the feast of the Passover, again, it’s not ‘the feast of’ the Passover, it’s the Feast of Unleavened Bread that’s coming; and before the actual Passover begins **when Jesus knew that His hour was come that He should depart out of this world**, it’s amazing how many things are mistranslated so often in scripture because they don’t know the plan of God, because they don’t know the truth and so they translate things in ways that the Greek language doesn’t even have it. **And when Jesus knew that His hour was come**, that’s why some get upset with me sometimes when I put out in that one book there that you can’t find Easter in the Bible; and then I get some that write back on occasion, have had some that have said, “Oh yes it is, here’s the verse, here’s the scripture.” And they never respond back when we send them back an email and tell them it’s not the word Easter in Greek, it’s the word for Passover in the Greek language. They purposely mistranslated it as Easter, Traditional Christianity, King James.

Anyway, it says, **and the hour was come that He should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end. And supper being ended**, so after this Passover supper was over with, which they were to observe year by year by year and had since the exodus back in Exodus 12 when the children of Israel were taken out of Egypt. Came up to this point in time here...the Passover was still being kept up to this point in time by the Jewish people. Israel had already been taken captive and up in Europe by that time. But the nation of Judah, the one tribe was still in Judah/Judea and it says, **and supper being ended the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him**; so again, it was this broadcasting. Judas’ heart was already stirred up. He was envious, he was jealous and now that being came along who began to broadcast into his mind, because that’s what they have the power to do if we’re receiving of it, if we’re receptive of it: attitudes, thinking, thoughts sometimes. They broadcast through the air. We haven’t understood that very well until radio came out, then we began to understand something on a spiritual plane that’s far greater than even what’s in the world physically. And so He just stirred Judas up a little bit more with thoughts and ideas of betrayal and the like and just made that envy that much worse. That which is already in the heart he made stronger, a stronger inclination to this.

And it says, **supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot**, in other words into his mind, **to betray Him; Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He was come from God, and went to God**; He was His Father’s – God. He came from Him. No

one has ever been born whose father was God except Jesus Christ. So He came from God. He was born of a virgin though, of Mary, of a human being. So, what an incredible thing that God did.

Going on, **verse 4 - He rose from supper**, in other words from the meal that evening, that Passover meal. It wasn't just any meal; it was the Passover meal because they killed the lamb and made it ready. It was the last Passover that ever had to be kept in this manner, the killing of a lamb, because of what He was about to fulfill in Himself; **and laid aside His garments; and took a towel, and girded Himself**. So here He is; this is after supper is over with now and He gets a towel. And it says **After that He poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet**, awesome! Began to go around to all 12 disciples. He took the time. They wore sandals, your feet would become dirty in that kind of a world and yet He was willing to humble Himself to bend down, to kneel down, to get on His knees to begin to wash them in the basin: each one of those disciples, all 12 – even the one who's going to betray Him, who He knew would betray Him. He humbled Himself to wash his feet as well. **...and He began to wash their feet and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter: and Peter said unto Him, Lord, are you going to wash my feet?** Because he understood something here...how is my Lord, my Master washing my feet? I should serve Him and He's going to wash my feet? And that was his mind, his thinking. Peter was always a very zealous individual and very outspoken in things. **Jesus answered and said unto him**, He's the very one that God made the chief apostle. He was over all the apostles after Jesus died...to the Jews. Paul was to the Gentiles.

But it goes on to say, **Jesus answered and said unto him, What I am doing now you don't know; but you shall know hereafter**. In other words you're going to come to understand this in time, but you don't understand it right now. **Peter said unto Him, You shall never wash my feet. And Jesus answered and said unto him, If I don't wash your feet, you have no part with Me**. Pretty strong...and Peter was pretty strong in what he had to say here; "You're my Lord, I don't want you washing my feet. You're not going to wash me." And so Jesus Christ tells him, "If I don't, you're not going to have a part with me," and how that changed Peter's attitude. Kind of funny here – his response. **And Simon Peter said unto Him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head**. He gets excited here. "Wash me more! I want to be a part with you." **And Jesus said unto him, He that is washed needs not save but to have his feet washed, but is clean every whit: and you are clean, but not all**. Amazing what He's saying here. "You're clean. I've washed your feet." This has more meaning in it, but He said, "You're not all clean." ...speaking of an individual. **For He knew who should betray Him; therefore said He, You are not all clean**. So previously to eating He said, "One of you that eats with Me is going to betray Me." And now He's saying this, "Now you're not all clean." Speaking of Judas.

So after He had washed their feet, and had taken the garments, He was set down again, He said unto them, Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord: and you say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; if I have humbled myself to wash your feet, to serve you, you also ought to wash one another's feet. It's an attitude of mind that all people should have toward one another. Incredible! That which we still observe on Passover night; that which is a part of the ceremony of taking part of the wine and part of the bread that Jesus Christ said we're to do as a memorial every Passover. Not communion every week like some churches do, they so besmirch these things. It's something that was to be done on Passover night, the taking of the bread and the wine, but also the ceremony, the washing of one another's feet. Women wash women's feet; men separate and wash each other's feet that night. And you don't always know who it is that you're going to wash.

I remember a time, and I'll tell part of the story, these two individuals won't mind, I'm sure. But I'll tell you a story that happened one time after the break-up of the Church and something that had happened within the Church. We were all scattered all over the place and there was this one particular area where two individuals were having a difficulty in communication. It's like I've mentioned so many times. We have many different personalities in God's Church and sometimes our personalities are so different we can't understand where the other person is coming from and so sometimes it's hard for us to be friends, to be close, because some personalities can be abrasive to how we think and how we normally do things and so our communication sometimes is hurt because of that: we don't understand each other and we don't try to understand each other sometimes in life.

These two individuals were having a bit of a difficulty in their communication with each other and we had a three way call on the telephone one night because I was in an area far away from them and we spent over an hour working out and talking about these differences and how they needed to reconcile and love each other and be at one. And after we got all finished...this was just not too long now before Passover was coming and I told them, "Well, this is good now, we've gone through all this because you're both going to be washing each other's feet on Passover night." And the response back was, "Well, why's that?" They were the only two men in the area. There were some women in the area too but the men washed each other's feet so since they were the only two men in that area they were definitely going to be washing each other's feet.

It kind of broke the ice and everything else and they both started laughing and it shows how foolish sometimes we are in some of the things we do and say and the like. But it's an attitude of mind, a willingness to wash each other's feet, a willingness to humble ourselves, to take off their socks, or you help them take off their socks, their shoes, whatever...and you kneel down and you get a basin of water and you wash their feet. It's an attitude and God wants us to remember that attitude... there shouldn't be any person we should ever look down upon. On the contrary, see, we are brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ and God wants us to see each other as a Family; and family... it even goes beyond that. Family will go to each other's defence; to help each other; to protect each other; to do whatever... that's the way family should be. But definitely not to find fault – but sometimes families get into squabbles. But with God's Church you have to work those things out. You have to do things a right way; God *requires* of us to resolve those things and to be at one, to be in agreement with each other, to love each other, and to not hold anything against each other. It's an awesome thing; it's a beautiful thing.

And so He's telling them this part here of their attitude of mind because it's about humility; which is the opposite of pride: because the story of Unleavened Bread is just that – it's a spirit of humility that God is teaching mankind that mankind must have and to get rid of the pride because it's pride – it's pride that Lucifer had when he began to talk about God, when he began to disagree with what God was doing and began to fight then against God; so much so that he took with him a third of the angelic realm who became demons. God confined them to this earth, Lucifer and the demons; Satan and the demons. They're here to this day! They're on the earth! People don't understand that in the world. They're beings! They want you to be afraid of them. They inspire Hollywood to do various things to make you feel like they are very powerful... what is some of the stupid shows they have out? Exorcist and some of these things...like they have some great power. They don't have great power and that's the problem. They hate that, that they don't have great power. They do have power to broadcast and people oftentimes receive that because of attitudes. They can stir up attitudes and make it worse; to make your battle harder. See, that's why it's wrong to get in bad attitudes because they're there wanting to feed on that and wanting you to become worse in your envying and your jealousy or whatever it might be to stir you up. Sometimes people don't understand why they become so emotional about something

and gone beyond what they normally might do! Well, because those beings love to broadcast and stir those emotions and attitudes up. They're real beings! Not to be feared; not to be afraid of, because they have no power. Matter of fact, when you receive God's way of life and you start living this they can't stand to be around God's people – they flee. They'll still try to broadcast from time to time and they'll try to make things hard for you but they cannot stand being around God; and if you're close to God, God's in you; and they can't stand being around any portion of God. Amazing!

So anyway, real beings that have done a lot of damage in this earth and are getting ready to do a whole lot more because they're the very ones... it was that being who stirred up Hitler in WWII; that was the 6th revival of what is called the Holy Roman Empire in scripture, in the Bible. And that was why Mr. Armstrong knew when he came on the scene, when he understood some scriptures in Revelation when it talked about the one that is, and the one that is going to come to pass. There's one more in other words, speaking of the 7th revival; and so the 6th revival had to happen during the days of Mr. Armstrong and it did. And sure enough if you see some of the speeches of Hitler; and people talked about it...he became... he almost came into a trance and the way he would speak and the people in the audience were swayed by that very power. It was like a religious thing. When you read things of history, or hear things of history it was more like a religious experience – not a good one, a bad one – a trance type of thing that began to happen. That's why speaking in tongues and some of the Pentecostal type of things is so bad because they give themselves, if they're not careful, to spirit beings that do things and speak and do things that aren't right, that aren't good and they don't know where that power is coming from. And it's hard to tell someone that that isn't from God because they say, "Yeah, I've experienced it! I've had the feelings! I know what it's like! I've spoken in tongues, I've done this, I've done that... I've had these things..."

"Yeah, I know they happened to you, but they weren't from God.

Some of these ministers that get up and put their hand on somebody's head and they fall backwards. "Be healed!" And they fall, they lose control of their body's and they can't function and they fall over – somebody has to catch them. People are moved by that, people in an audience – there's a spirit that takes place in an audience and people are moved by that which they see and they don't understand that's not from God. God doesn't work that way. It's hard to convince someone and you can't – God has to do it.

We'll finish this part of what Jesus Christ was telling them. **For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.** Wash one another's feet every Passover. It was the example He set and that spirit of humility. Because Lucifer had pride, everything about sin is a matter of pride. When you sin it's like an obelisk, it's like idolatry, setting up an idol before God. You're going to do something that you want to do that God says not to do and so you make it more important than what God says. And when you do that, that's a matter of pride that does it, but it's a matter of spiritual adultery, spiritual idolatry that God condemns in scripture. It's just like idolatry, except it's spiritual against God. Every sin, doing something against God is a matter of pride and the Days of Unleavened Bread *picture* coming out of Egypt, coming out of spiritual Egypt, coming out of sin, God taking us out of sin. The Days of Unleavened Bread are about not having *leavening*, eating bread that whole week that has no leavening in it because as Paul said, "Leaven puffs up." Pride! And this pictures the opposite of that – being *unleavened*, eating of the unleavened bread of life, which it says; Jesus Christ is the unleavened bread of life, meaning without sin, without being puffed up, being of a spirit of humility, the opposite of pride. Beautiful examples here that God has given to help us understand our nature, to understand our minds, to know what it is we're to fight against. We're to fight against pride and being filled with leaven, being filled with sin.

If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; you also ought to wash...YOU ALSO OUGHT TO WASH one another's feet. On Passover, we understand... **For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, truly, truly I say to you, The servant is not greater than his Lord; neither is He that is sent greater than He that sent Him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.** Beautiful, beautiful words here that were spoken...blessed are you if you do them. And we're blessed because we do them, because we understand the meaning and the intent of it and God blesses us because of that. And no one, God makes it so clear, as I mentioned last week... some of the attitudes that came into God's Church where the ministry was there to be served is a wrong spirit. No one is to be better than anyone else. No one is to look down upon anyone in God's Church. We, as far as human nature, carry with us as human beings a lot of baggage and we have so many prejudices in life due to education, of what we think someone has or doesn't have; some jobs because someone does a certain thing and someone else does something else, that someone else thinks they're *better* than another person; race... it doesn't matter what it is in the world. *There are so many prejudices* in the world. It's all over the place and those things are deep inside us as human beings and those are the things we have to conquer and overcome and understand that we are a Family... if we could just take it all the way back to the beginning. We all came from Noah; and we came from Adam and Eve; but we all came from Noah as well. We are one family, physically and God has a desire that we all be one Family spiritually if we understand it.

So with that, next week we'll continue on with this series of those things that Jesus Christ was giving before He died and even after He died.

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