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[#6 Genesis My Journey Back to the Garden The Law and Marriage: Understanding Our Covenant with Christ](#)

## The Law and Marriage, Part Three

Hello, welcome back to the channel, guys, or my fellow Bereans. Um, so we're in the "Law and Marriage" part three and um, I was going to—this was going to be the last video—but it got too long, so I just had to split it into two. So there's into two videos. So there's going to be one more coming.

Okay, we're going to start with prayer and we're going to dive right in.

Heavenly Father, please speak to us through all the scriptures that will be shared and help us to be doers of your word and not hearers only, that we may bring glory to your name. It's in your Son's name, Jesus, that we pray. Amen.

Okay, let's get started. So, we've been looking at law—the instructions. And remember, the instructions reveal who God is, who Jesus is, and how he wants to be loved. We've been looking at that in a marriage covenant with our spouse and with Christ, and how it shadows—one shadows the other. Uh, now, we know the enemy hates marriage because it's a reflection of our relationship with Christ. So, it's safe to say the enemy is going to do everything he can to corrupt or defile law and marriage.

And there's one more thing he wants. If he can't destroy our marriages, he wants us to miss the open door. The instructions from our bridegroom to an open door: *"I know your deeds. Behold, I've put before you an open door which no one can shut because you have a little power and have kept my word and have not denied my name."* In Matthew 25, it says:

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps, but they took no oil with them. But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard, 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming. Go out to meet him.' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you. But go rather to those who sell and go buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us.' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly I say to you, I do not know you. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.'"

So we're going to go through the parable of the ten virgins. And the first bullet point we're going to go through is the bridegroom, Jesus. And then we're going to go through all these bullet points one by one. So let's tackle the first one.

*"For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."* So being in covenant with Jesus is to be his bride and take the role of a chaste virgin. So this applies to all believers. The first thing we need to do is make sure that we are guarding and nourishing our relationship with Jesus, which our marriages shadow. So both relationships need to heed the instructions that are given in order to cultivate intimacy.

The five foolish virgins called the bridegroom "Lord," but he doesn't know them, implying intimacy. This parable is warning us that the door will be closed to whoever doesn't know Jesus intimately. "If you love me, keep my commandments, my instructions. They are the way to where I will be." In Psalm 119:1 it says, *"Blessed are the undefiled in the way who walk in the law, the instructions of the Lord."* *Derek*—the way to the bridegroom. That's what um the "way" is in Hebrew: *derek*. He's saying, "Follow my law. Follow my instructions. They are the way to the open door."

So, we see that two people can be married but not know each other intimately. It happens all the time. And it can happen with God. And I experienced this in my marriage and I know a lot of marriages experience this. And if you think about it, every marriage that ends in divorce—in one way or another, um, intimacy was a factor. Because if you know someone intimately, then that's um that's the point. God doesn't want us just reading our Bibles; He wants us to know him. His

instructions reveal how to know him, and the instructions from your spouse reveal how to know them. And that is really, really important.

Now it all starts with our relationship with Jesus. And this is what he says in Revelation 2:4: *"But I have this against you, that you have left your first love."* And leaving our first love unfortunately leads to so many problems in a marriage and can and does eventually end in divorce. So keeping the commandments is about relationship, not legalism. You follow the instructions because you love your spouse and you want to cultivate intimacy. So in Revelation: return. If you love me, keep my commandments. Return. Return. Return to your first love.

So, can you see how we can close the door of intimacy with Jesus when we refuse to walk in the instructions and in our earthly marriages, not really knowing each other? It's a warning in the parable that we—we never want to hear. So, we need to heed the warning in both our earthly marriage and our heavenly marriage.

1 Corinthians 6:15 says:

"Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not. Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For the two, he says, shall become one flesh. But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

So God wants faithfulness from a heart of love. "If you love me, keep my commandments." Love is the reason for faithfulness. We've been so indoctrinated to think of the law as cold and legalistic when the truth is his law, his instruction reveals who he is and how a holy God receives love. And as we saw, that translates in our marriages. We can't have intimacy without faithfulness and obedience to the instructions. There are too many marriages where intimacy has left the building. And there are some spouses out there that are dying of loneliness. Um, it's like they're in a desert just pleading for some water.

Love is not legalistic. It's sacrificial. It's faithful. So, if faithfulness is violated, how can intimacy be formed? And sacrificial doesn't mean you always like the instructions, but you do them to show love to either God or your spouse. Um so the questions are, you know, are we spending time with our spouse—our spouses—to know them? Are we spending time in the Bible reading and prayer and praying to know God? Are we responding to what God and our—and our spouse has been asking of us? And it's really important to ask these questions and take stock of our marriages and our relationship with God so that we can cultivate and maintain intimacy.

Um, notice he says, "Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body because the two become one flesh." And so we're going to learn a lot about what God views as spiritual adultery. And it's important to know that because it's important to God. And those of us who are married understand how important it is in our relationship with our spouse. If you don't have faithfulness, then then you—you can never attain intimacy. Okay?

In Revelation it says, *"Let us be glad and rejoice and give him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and his wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright. For the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."* So being a bride that is ready is tied to righteous acts. Jesus gives us our righteousness. And in Psalm 119, it says, *"My tongue shall speak of your word, for all your commandments are righteousness."* So the commandments, the instructions of who Jesus is and how he receives love will be found in the commandments as Jesus walked them out. Jesus actually walked out how he wants to be loved, which is the lesson for us. If you want to be loved, you must first walk it out to your spouse.

Okay. So, that's the first one. Now, we're going to go through um the ten virgins. Five are wise and five are foolish. Now, all ten virgins took their lamps. All ten went to meet the bridegroom, arose and trimmed their lamps, and all ten fell asleep. So now let's look at the five wise virgins.

*"But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps."* The wise were prepared and ready. Now the foolish, they took their lamps and they took no oil with them. The foolish looked the same as the wise, but they assumed they had enough oil. And when they realized they didn't, they wanted to borrow from the wise. The wise were not stingy. And we can read it and go, "Well, why didn't you just share your oil?" They weren't stingy with the oil. You simply cannot lend what produced the oil. And we'll go over that. So, the foolish misunderstood what it means to be ready. They were unprepared. And you can't borrow readiness or oil.

Okay, let's look at some—sorry, let me move this. Let's look at some characteristics or behaviors of the wise. *"The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul. The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."* Now, let's go to the foolish side. *"There is desirable treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man squanders it."* Proverbs 1:5, *"A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel."* And this speaks to me of humility. You will hear and you will increase in learning and you will attain wise counsel. Remember, one of the spirits—uh, manifestations of the Spirit is counsel. Will we receive counsel from God and will we do what he says?

Proverbs 18:2, *"A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart."* So this is someone who does not listen. Um, I remember one time, uh, when I registered for Bible study, I felt the Lord impress upon me: "Karen, I want you to listen this whole semester. I don't want you to talk at all." And it was a really good for me to learn how to be quiet and listen. And I learned a lot just by listening. We can learn a lot. You know, the Lord says, "Be still and know that I am God." And he speaks in the stillness. And we have so many distractions and so much going on. So, it is a good thing to be quiet. We can learn a lot.

Proverbs 23:19, "*Hear, my son, and be wise, and guide your heart in the way.*" So hear, listen. It's always with this um thought of: you listen in order to obey. "Hear and obey, my son, and be wise and guide your heart in the way." He's not saying guide your heart in *your way*—in *the way*. Remember Jesus is the way, truth, and the life. And the law leads to the way. The law points the way. The Bible says there is a way that seems right unto man, but it ends in death. That's why it's so important to take counsel from God. Read his instructions with the heart that is ready to do what he says.

In Jeremiah 5:4 it says, "*Therefore I said, 'Surely these are poor. They are foolish, for they do not know the way of the Lord, the judgment of their God.'*" Proverbs 10:8, "*The wise of heart will receive commands, but a babbling fool will be ruined.*" Again, the wise of heart are humble. They will receive. They will listen to instruction. And notice: "but a babbling fool will be ruined." Again, too much talking, not enough listening.

Okay. Proverbs 20:1, "*Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.*" We all know that you do not make wise decisions whenever you are intoxicated. But I've never heard anyone say, "I drink because I make the best decisions." It's always—almost always—the opposite. And you know what? Intoxication—we're going to learn the deeper meaning to being spiritually intoxicated.

Okay. James 3:13. So, who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. So wisdom is tied to your actions. What you do reveals who you are.

And then Titus 3:3, "*For we ourselves were also once foolish.*" So what I'm going to read after this is the marks of someone who's foolish: "disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another." Man, if that doesn't describe—if any of you get on social media, it is just like a hatefest. It's awful. You know, that should never be the mark of a believer.

In second Timothy, it says:

"Avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife, and a servant of the Lord must not quarrel, but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient in humility, correcting those who are in in opposition. If God perhaps will grant them repentance so that they may know the truth and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will."

A believer should never be taken captive to do his will. Today many are in bondage to Satan to do his will with all hateful speech and actions. And we as believers, we're not to match that hate. The Bible says the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. So we see that we are to pray for our enemies and handle things much differently than the world does.

And um in the stillness and in the quietness, God—he leads and guides us in how to handle difficult situations or or how to hand—handle um pretty much what's going on today even in

families and it's hard just to have these civil conversations. And I do pray that God will give us wisdom um and how—and how to—how to bring him glory in the way that we—we respond. There is a difference in reacting and responding. And reacting is never good because it's impulsive. But responding is thoughtful and takes time to pray and wait on the Lord, like "How do I—how do I handle this situation?" We need a lot more of that.

Okay, let's go on. So now let's look at oil and light. In John 8:12, it says, *"Jesus then spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'"* So all ten virgins knew who the light was.

Now oil, what is it? So oil is thought to be the anointing of the Holy Spirit. In 1 Samuel it says, *"Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward."* In 2 Corinthians, *"Now he who establishes us with you in Christ has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the spirit in our hearts as a guarantee."* So let's look at the Holy Spirit. *"And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God."* *"There shall come forth a rod from the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots."* This is speaking of Jesus. *"The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear... of the fear of the Lord."* So we see that the seven lamps of fire are the seven spirits of God that rested on Jesus. And so the Holy Spirit that indwells us gives light to the believer. Um, that's why they're called lamps. It's so cool. Let's look at a little bit deeper.

Ezekiel says:

"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you, and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will be careful to observe my ordinances."

Practicing patience. Okay. Now, this is talking about the new covenant, by the way. "My spirit within you will cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances." So, what's a statute? An enactment, an appointment, a set time. And I want you to keep that in mind. We're going to go back to that.

In John, it says:

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. For he will not speak on his own initiative, but whatever he hears, he will speak, and he will disclose to you what is to come."

Jesus said to him—so what is the truth? *"I am the way, the truth, and the life,"* which is Jesus. *"No one comes to the Father except through me. He's going to guide you into all truth."* Well, *"Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and your law is truth."* Psalm 119:105,

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* Jesus is the light of the world and the law is light. And the spirit of truth is going to guide you into the truth.

All the virgins had lamps. They all rose and trimmed their lamps. Trimmed your lamp means to put in order, arrange, make ready, to prepare. But somehow the foolish, they thought they were ready but found out they were not. *"For the commandment is a lamp and the law a light."* So commandment and law are instructions. Could this be what the foolish were missing?

So let's learn more about the oil. *"And if some of the branches were broken off, and you being a wild olive tree were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree."* So we as believers are grafted into the olive tree. We—we're like olives.

In Exodus it says, *"You shall charge the sons of Israel that they bring you clear oil of beaten olives for the light to make a lamp burn continually."* In Matthew it says:

"Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

Now "narrow" means to afflict, throng, suffer tribulation, trouble. In Acts it says, *"strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith and saying, 'Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.'"* So, anyone who is going to wholeheartedly keep the commandments from a heart of love will be pressed through trials and tribulations. They're going to produce oil for their lamps. And you can't share the pressing. You can't share the trials and tribulations. Every individual must make that decision to undergo the pressing for keeping the commandments.

And look at this in 2 Corinthians:

"We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed. We are perplexed but not in despair. Persecuted but not forsaken. Struck down but not destroyed."

This is the Apostle Paul. "Hard-pressed"—to press hard upon a compressed way. Narrow, straightened, contracted; to trouble, afflict, and distress. So this is how you get the oil to make the lamp burn continually: by being pressed like an olive, and you have to be willing to go through. That's why you can't share it. Each—each individual must do that for themselves.

So something came to my mind. It's kind of funny is the phrase: "Live your best life now." I'm sure many of you have heard that. That can be very depressing for many people because I don't—we're—a lot of people are going through a lot. But see, Satan wants to say stuff like that. "Live your best life." Now, we're really living for the *next* life. That's going to be our best life, which is for eternity. Wisdom is to have an eternal best life. But the enemy wants you to think, "Oh yeah, this is your best life."

And the Spirit is saying today—he's saying, "Die to yourself." Jesus says, "Follow me as I was persecuted." He's saying, "Follow me as I suffered." In second Timothy, it says, *"Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."* And in Matthew 5, it says, *"Those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake are blessed, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* We're being prepared to inherit a kingdom, and we enter into the kingdom, as we had just read, through many—through many uh trials.

I—God wants us to understand that our best life awaits us. Our mindset is really important, and we respond differently when we know that trials are part of the walk. And I can't tell you how much this helped me when I was diagnosed with cancer. I didn't receive a good prognosis, but Jesus told me, "Trust me." And I don't mean he spoke verbally, by the way, but in my thoughts, I felt him say: "And don't feel sorry for yourself." Because he knows when we feel sorry for ourselves that it is just a pit of despair. He said, "Praise me, for I inhabit the praises of my people."

And you know what? That set the tone for my walk through cancer. And I am so thankful for that. God brought me through. And you know what? He will bring you through whatever you are going through. He is faithful even when we are not. He will never leave you or forsake you. And when you pass through the waters, he says in Isaiah, "I will be with you. The rivers will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned. The flame will not scorch you."

Instead of getting upset with trials for interrupting our so-called "best life now," expect them and know we are gathering oil for what's coming as the world grows darker. But also look to God in anticipation of how he's going to walk through—how he's going to get you through this trial. It changes our lives to live in a mindset of expecting trials and expecting to see God move in our life however he chooses. And that's key. Not how we *will* for him to work, but accepting how he chooses to work in the situation. He's not working to make us comfortable; he's working to make us holy. Remember: for our best life in the *next* life.

Okay, let's learn a little more about gathering this oil.

What kind of olive are you? A diseased olive tree or olive fruit can sometimes appear deceptively healthy on the outside in the early stages, but most infections eventually produce visible, often unsightly symptoms. While the tree might look normal for a short period, diseases usually manifest as wilting, yellowing, or a scorched appearance. Remember: all the virgins look the same. So, what's the difference?

Olives are ground into a paste. It's called milling. And then placed under a hydraulic press or through a centrifugal separator to separate the oil from the water and solid matter. The process requires significant pressure to extract oil, which is then separated and bottled.

In first Peter it says:

"Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind—the mindset—with the same mind. For he who has suffered in the flesh has

ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lust of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries."

There is—remember we read this—"desirable treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man squanders it." That's one of the differences. The wise acquire—acquire oil, but the foolish squander it. And it—it's significant pressure to extract the oil. So the foolish—many don't even make it to the pressing. They just try to get away from a trial as fast as they can, not even understanding that the pressing of the trial is exactly what you need to produce the oil.

Now, bad olives usually result from pests, diseases, environmental stress, under or over-watering, poor soil, extreme temperatures, or improper curing, leading to bitter taste, mushy texture, or visible damage like brown spots or maggots inside, making them inedible or unpalatable. So even edible varieties taste intensely bitter straight from the tree without processing. So processing is critical.

Our processing is the pressing of trials and tribulations we go through in this life. If we respond in faith and holiness in obedience to the commandments through the power of the Holy Spirit, oil will be produced for light. See why you can't share that process? You can't share your response to the pressing—the trials. Every individual must make that decision to undergo the pressing for keeping the commandments. That's how the—the wise virgins were able to have oil in their vessels.

"If you love me, keep my commandments. Walk as Christ walked." But there is a cost for the oil. And the foolish were not willing. You know, we see this so many times when someone has done the hard work and others want to write off the hard work instead of doing it themselves. We see that a lot today. I can picture some of the foolish saying, "Hey, can you drop a pin of the location for the door? I'm kind of busy living my best life now." That just made me laugh. I thought, "Oh, that is so the mindset today sometimes." Um, but all joking aside, we need to live with an eternal perspective. Live a life of pressing now, and then live with our bridegroom in eternity. That's our mindset.

Okay. Olives—even edible varieties—taste intensely bitter straight from the tree without pressing. So, it's not that oil is produced just from being pressed; it's our *response* to the pressing. Have you ever met anyone who is just bitter with life, with trials, and complains any chance they get? This does not produce the clear oil from the pressing. That oil will be um what do they call it? Um, cloudy. It won't taste good. It's not good.

You know this type of person is a *curmudgeon*. That's what I call them. That's the first thought that came to my mind about a bitter person—is a curmudgeon. A cur—or curmudgeon—is a group that takes all the joy out of a room just with their presence. Um, it's usually associated with someone who is old and grumpy. But you know what? When you're bitter, it can make you look older than you really are. We don't want to do that.

So our response is very important. The Bible says: *"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord."* That's important. *"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord. Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by this many become defiled."* A bitter per—we saw that with the children of Israel in the camp. A little leaven leavens a whole lump. How—how do—what, you know, how would you like to be the one in the camp that started bitterness that spread to everyone?

So bitterness: *no bueno*. *"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."* So when you're in a difficult marriage—and I was for a long time—I memorized this verse. I can tell it to you any time of any day because it was something I had to live by. Okay? So, it's telling you: turn away from bitterness, wrath, anger, and all of that. Well, then you do—you turn away, and then these are the things you do: and be kind, be tenderhearted. You—if you're hard-hearted, you can't be tenderhearted because a hard heart will not let tenderness in. And also, forgiveness is a big key. Forgiving one another and asking for forgiveness. Because look: *"even as God in Christ has forgiven you."* We know if you don't forgive, you will not be forgiven. Somehow we put that in a—the back of our mind and hang on to bitterness or anger. And we need to be free in these last days. We need oil. It's getting darker and darker.

Um, so we see this is the key. Our response to the pressing is the key. And we cannot respond in godliness unless we're walking in the Spirit. And the Spirit can be quenched. So when we have bitterness or anger in our heart—unforgiveness—then we quench the Spirit. Then we don't have power to overcome the anger and the bitterness. It's kind of like a—a bad cycle.

So we see that repentance is key. And because we are not always going to respond the way we should—we're not. But we learn obedience by the things we suffer, just as our Lord did. And it blows my mind that—that the scriptures say Jesus learned obedience by the things he suffered. So he gave us an example to follow. And if our Lord learned by suffering, you better believe that's the only way we're going to learn it.

So the important thing really is to pull up the weeds right away so we can be a cleansed vessel that the Holy Spirit can indwell. And you know, sometimes a foolish person is suffering in a trial due to bad choices. We can definitely avoid those and not blame it all on God when we're suffering for our own bad choices. If we have to go through trials, we should let God pick what they're going to be and not add to the stress of just living in a fallen world.

It's important to have a community of believers who pray for each other. Um, get plugged in wherever God leads you and pray for godly friends that will help and not hinder you on your journey. Friends that will speak the truth in love and pray for you as you do in turn for them.

So don't be a bitter person. What I call a "curmudgeon." A curmudgeon is a grumpy, cantankerous, stubborn, old person. But I apply it to any grump because it brings a definite picture to my mind. Sometimes we think we look like this when in fact this is what we look like to

the rest of the world. It'll come much um—I'm sorry. It just cracks me up because sometimes we don't even realize.

Oh my gosh. Like, have you ever walked in a place and then just happened to see um yourself in a mirror and you're like, "Oh my god, I—I didn't think I looked mad." I remember telling my mom one day, "You look like you want to kill somebody." She didn't even realize it. Not that she was a curmudgeon; I'm just saying, we do not want to look like bitter curmudgeons. I wonder how many of you have actually even heard that word.

Okay. In John it says, "The Holy Spirit of truth will guide you into all truth." And we can't know the truth when we're so bitter and angry. The truth bounces off a hard heart. Truth won't take root. Instead, bitterness takes root and chokes out the truth. So, it's a picture of breaking up the hard soil, pulling up the weeds of bitterness, and watering the soil of your heart.

In Hosea, it says, *"Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you."* You have to plow up the hard ground. You know, when you're trying to plant a plant and the ground is hard as a rock and you have to kind of make some, you know, get your tool and—and break up that hard ground. That's what it's talking about: to get the sin out of your heart.

If you think you might be a curmudgeon, let the Holy Spirit show you why you are so bitter. Do you need to forgive or ask for forgiveness? Are you bitter from your own bad choices or at God for not responding how you think he should have? A good place to start curmudgeon recovery is with praise to God. He inhabits the praises of his people. Being thankful—you know, when you start to list the things you're thankful for, it just changes your whole outlook. And there are a lot of things to be thankful for. If you have running water, if you have a refrigerator, food, then we need to be thankful. Praise and thanksgiving softens your heart, and then repentance can follow.

Now, the prayer in the garden:

"Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, 'Sit here while I go and pray over there.' And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and he began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then he said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with me.'"

"Gethsemane" is an "oil press." The Garden of Gethsemane at the foot of the Mount of Olives was and still is famously filled with olive trees. It was an olive grove with a press for extracting oil, which was used for lighting, food, and healing. Talk about Jesus being pressed to be the Light of the World.

Remember giving us an example to follow in Matthew: *"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.'"* In Matthew: *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do*

*they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light—our light—so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*" So, we're to be fully yielding our will to the pressing like Jesus in the garden. Remember, he said, "Not my will, but your will be done." Jesus said, "Follow me." He invites us to suffer, to yield to the pressing, not just for oil or for light, but for the highest and best in a relationship—that of intimacy with Jesus. Because when you have that intimacy, it's so much easier to submit to the pressing. And that is really important. He's always looking for intimacy through relationship, through obedience to his commands.

Now in John 3:19: *"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, Jesus, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."* So the spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart. The lamp—the Spirit of God searches all the inner depths because sin is like cancer in our heart, and it can spread to our whole body sometimes without us even realizing it. Now, God is not being mean to expose our sin. A good doctor will tell us if we're sick and he's going to treat us, just as God will expose our sin because he loves us and knows that sin leads to bondage.

Okay, let me get this. So sin is in our heart, and if not dealt with, it spreads to um all the areas of our body: our eyes—what are we looking at? Our mouth—gossip or blessing? Our hands and our feet? And it all emanates from our heart.

*"And there is no creature hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account."* Today, people think they will not stand before God and be judged, and they are very mistaken. And so are we. Sometimes God already knows there is sin we need to get rid of. But we need to see it, so God shines the light of his Spirit inside of us so that our sin can be exposed and dealt with. One aspect of trials is to press you so that you can see what's really inside of you. Because you know what? When you're not in a trial, we think we're doing pretty good. Everything's well. But a trial comes and we fall apart. And I mean sometimes only through a trial will we really face our sin.

In Proverbs it says: *"He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."* So come to the light so it can expose any sin in your life. Repent and be cleansed so that we are vessels that are able to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The next phase after that, from the cleansing, is: we're then empowered by the Holy Spirit to undergo the pressing of the trial to bring glory to his name. And then the outcome of that is the extra oil in our vessels. And then the word of truth can be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Until we are resurrected, we will need to walk in repentance so our light will shine more and more. And the Holy Spirit—when it's—when—when we're walking in sin, the Holy Spirit's not welcome then in our vessel. And that's why we walk in continual repentance.

And that's encouraging. It's like you're never going to um—you know, sometimes we're like, "God, am I ever going to learn?" But it's a walk of daily repentance. I don't—I don't think there's—well, I know there is never a day where I am not repenting, and I used to think that's a bad thing. But you're repenting of less severe things when you're walking in continual repentance, and you're also being proactive. You're praising him. You're thanking him. Remember, "the joy of the Lord is our strength."

So we—we're—should never think we're going to just attain. Remember Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived, right? How did he end? That is a—a cautionary tale that we need to walk humbly with our God every day.

And you know what? Oops, I always pushed the wrong button. Until we're resurrected, we're going to walk in daily repentance. When we are resurrected, we are going to shine. Remember when Moses would um come from meeting with the Lord and he—and his face would shine? We're going to shine like that, but to the fullness when we are resurrected. And until then, we need to walk in repentance so that light can shine in us and we can be a beacon for people in this dark world.

So his Spirit searches you like a lamp. He knows all your ways. The question is: to what extent do you know him intimately, like a bride? Because we—we never want to hear from him: "I never knew you" or "I do not know you."

I just want to encourage you to abide in Christ. Abiding and being still is where we learn to cultivate his still, small voice. And that's important um in a very chaotic, chaotic world that we live in. This deep abiding in him, coupled with obedience, is where the intimacy is forged. You know, as the days grow darker, um you'll be anchored in such a way that your roots will go down deep. And when the storms hit—you know, you may sway back and forth. We do, but we will not break. We'll be flexible. You will be firmly planted in Christ who is our all in all.

And the same goes with your marriage: return to your first love.

*"So let us be glad and rejoice and give him glory. For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright. For the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."* Okay, we're going to finish this up in the next video. Stay tuned and God bless.