Weekly Word Nov. 8, 2026 **Marion Victory**

Joshua 24:1-3a 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Joshua gathers the heads of all the tribes of Israel together and reminds them of where it is they came from. Their history. Today would be a reckoning for them. Who will they choose to serve? The gods their fathers served or the One true God. It's in this passage where Joshua affirms "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Give ear, O My people, to My law; incline your ears to the words of My mouth. ***I will open My mouth in a parable*** … that's the opening of Psalm 78. (Matthew 13:35)

Paul is reminding the church of Thessalonica that Christ is coming back and in verse 18 he writes; Therefore, comfort one another with these words. Paul is in fact reminding us as well to do the same.

The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins
Jesus uses this Parable of the wise and foolish virgins to teach His disciples about the end times and His return and of the need to be ready.

The ten virgins were all chosen and had the same duty; to light the way with torches and lamps and lead the bridegroom to the wedding feast. They were to watch for his coming and be prepared.
The wise had brought extra oil in their vessels but, the foolish had not.

In this case the bridegroom was later than expected and the bridesmaids all grew weary in their watch and had fallen asleep while waiting; using up their oil. In their sleeping though there was an expectancy as Reverend Tracey pointed out to us on Sunday; that children sleep with expectancy on Christmas Eve, and for the traveller who would be heading to the airport in the early morning, sleep is light.

So, the midnight cry was heard by them all. It woke them up!
They rose, trimmed their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. However, for five of them because they were not prepared; their lamps were going out and had run out of oil. They asked the wise virgins to lend them some of their oil but, the wise virgins told them to go buy some from the merchants. Not because they were selfish or mean as Reverend Tracey reminded us on Sunday. But because this oil can't be borrowed; you have to go to the source for yourself and store up.
You can't live on someone else's fuel.
We must not be complacent, careless, or hypocritical in our relationship with God or in our service for Him. Salvation is not based on external appearances or rituals but on personal faith and obedience. Jesus is illustrating the importance of being ready for His second coming.
It will be sudden!

The midnight cry brings me back to Paul's letter to the Thessalonians in chapter 4:16; For ***the LORD Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God.***
It will be a startling moment. Trumpets and shouts are loud.
We must watch and pray! Be outwardly and inwardly ready!

We must cultivate the Word of God, study it, mark it, memorize it, and allow it to change us. ***Selah***