

The Preparation of The Bride**Jim Moore****6.09.2017**

I am often asked; “What do you see the Lord doing?”

Sometimes I do feel like I have prophetic insight to the times and seasons, and will share what I’m seeing and hearing. Other times I simply have to say, “I don’t know.” I have however learned one thing that the Lord is always doing.

He’s always preparing for Himself a Bride.

That’s you and me He’s preparing. And the preparation is a process. There are a number of steps that happen in this process, and the first and perhaps the most important step is to believe that *you* are the Bride that He is preparing. This is not as simple a concept to grasp as we might think. Even though the scripture plainly declares this, that He is the Bridegroom and His Church (collectively and individually) is the Bride, and we accept it on face value, we still struggle with the concept of being a “Bride of God.” In this regard many women no doubt have a decided advantage, having been natural brides to their husbands. Conversely, even though we men understand what it means to be a husband, we can struggle with the concept of God being a husband to us.

Jesus is a Bridegroom God. We are His Bride. That is fact. Seeing that as biblical truth and having it firmly established in our hearts is a good place to start. We start by choosing to believe. Then we confess what we believe. The process will grow from there. We will only truly pursue what we truly believe. God is a Bridegroom. He is preparing His global Bride. You are a part of that. Seeing yourself as a Bride is crucial to the success of the process.

A Personal Testimony

“The cold winter wind bit at the back of my neck and made my eyes water. Even though the sun was out, it was still a chilly January day up at Christian Renewal Center near Silver Creek Falls Oregon. I had come somewhat reluctantly for a 30-day private prayer retreat in the beautifully forested hillside country. Though I had apprehensions, the Lord had already softened my heart the very first day when I pulled my car into the parking lot. I heard Him speak and say; “Im so glad that you’re here.” I could literally feel His excitement over me. That was enough.

On one of those 30 days, I was walking along a dirt road staff in hand, trying to talk with God as one man would talk to another. I was at a turning point and I was asking Jesus what I was supposed to do with the rest of my life. I was recounting all the things that I had done in ministry over the years, and that I really didn’t understand what my “ultimate purpose” was now. I knew that I was learning to love the Lord with all my heart, soul, and body. That was the first commandment and He had already made this quite plain to me. What I didn’t seem to be able to grasp was what I was supposed to do as my earthly “assignment” to fulfill the second commandment. Everyone has a job to do on planet earth, and I had done many jobs over the prior 30 years, but what now? What was I supposed to be doing for Him? I needed to know.

I would like to say that the lighting flashed and the thunder crashed, but it did not. Instead, I heard the proverbial “still small voice” inside of me. It sounded like the voice of a tender, almost broken man speaking to me. He simply said:

“Help Me find the perfect Bride.”

That was enough. There is something about that voice that penetrates all the mistrust and confusion, and gets right to the heart of the matter. I understood that no matter what I did in life for other people, the ultimate goal was the same for them as it was for me...to be a better lover of God. I was to help them become a mature Bride for Jesus. So in affect, my second commandment was to help them fulfill their first commandment. To Love Jesus Christ fully—with all their being.

The Bride Who Made Herself Ready

Revelation 19:6-8

“And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, ‘Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 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.”

(Play clip from Ever After)

John Baptist Calls Jesus The Bridegroom

John 3:29-34

*“He who has **the Bride is the Bridegroom**; but the friend of **the Bridegroom**, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of **the Bridegroom's voice**. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease. He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.” And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.”*

John the Baptist declared that Jesus was the Bridegroom, and His people were His Bride. John received this revelation perhaps even before anyone had spoken it. He understood that the earthly relationship between a man and his wife had a higher purpose than romance and procreation. It heralded the great love relationship between God the His beloved people. We don't tend to see John as a lover, but he certainly had the revelation. He may have worn camel skin, lived in the desert, and ate locust and honey, but he knew love. He did what he did, and spoke what was given to Him, from the backdrop of love.

Jesus Calls Himself A Bridegroom

Luke 5:34-35

*“And He said to them, ‘Can you make the **friends of the Bridegroom fast while the Bridegroom is with them?** But the days will come when **the Bridegroom will be taken away from them;** then they will fast in those days.’”*

Here Jesus refers to Himself as the Bridegroom. In answer to His critics as to why the disciples did not fast and pray, He gave the answer that their desire was fulfilled while He was with Him. The greatest, yet often unperceived, desire of the human heart is to be close to the Master. Thus their heart desire was fulfilled.

However the time would come when He was taken from them, and their longing would begin, and increase, until they learned how to walk with Him while He was not there in the flesh. We are spirit and flesh creatures, designed to live in both realms simultaneously. Fasting is not an attempt at pleasing God or getting Him to move, but rather an act of love. It is the response of a love-sick heart that wants to draw near. Prayer with fasting aids in the subduing the flesh so the spirit might have more preeminence. The best motivation for prayer and fasting, for all things, is love.

A Bride Dressed For The Occasion

Matthew 22:1-13

“And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, ‘See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.’” But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.’”

The Bride Ready Or Not

Matthew 25:1-13

*“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 and 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 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.**”*

The Bride Washed With Water

Ephesians 5:25-25-28

*“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for her, **that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.** So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.”*

The Bride & Bridegroom Fully Revealed

Song of Songs 5:9 – 6:9

In the Song of all songs, a plan is given. It is the plan of the ages, the consummation of the plan of God to bring all things together in love. It is contained in two questions. These questions correspond to the two great inquiries of mankind concerning Jesus. The first is: Who is He and why is He so different than every other religious leader or teacher. What makes Him so special that you would call Him God in the flesh?

The second is: If He is all you say He is, then where is He? How can we find Him? How can we see Him at work in the earth? Where is He?

These verses are found in the Song of Songs (5:9 – 6:9) in a solid block of scripture, not picked from various places throughout the book. They represent a prophetic picture of the end time plan of God to reveal the Bride and the Bridegroom to the world. They give an answer to the big questions: “Who is He and how can He be found?” This speaks of truth and evidence. The Bride must be able to give both an answer these questions, and to demonstration of the reality of the living King to the world. This will happen before we transfer from this age to the next. The harvest at the end of the

age hinges on these things happening. In the end the Bride will be fully revealed, and The Bridegroom will be fully seen and understood. The Bride will be able to transmit truth and power. s

QUESTION OF WORLD NUMBER ONE: *“What is your Beloved more than another beloved, O fairest among women? What is your Beloved more than another beloved, that you so charge us?”*

REVELATION OF JESUS NUMBER ONE: *“My Beloved is white and ruddy, chief among ten thousand. His head is like the finest gold; His locks are wavy, and black as a raven. His eyes are like doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set. His cheeks are like a bed of spices, banks of scented herbs. His lips are lilies, dripping liquid myrrh. His hands are rods of gold set with beryl. His body is carved ivory inlaid with sapphires. His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of fine gold. His countenance is like Lebanon, excellent as the cedars. His mouth is most sweet, yes, He is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem!”*

QUESTION NUMBER TWO: *“Where has your Beloved gone, O fairest among women? Where has your Beloved turned aside, that we may seek Him with you?”*

REVELATION OF JESUS NUMBER TWO: *“My Beloved has gone to His garden, to the beds of spices, to feed His flock in the gardens, and to gather lilies. I am my Beloved's, and my Beloved is mine. He feeds His flock among the lilies.”*

REVELATION OF BRIDE BY JESUS: *“O My Love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah, lovely as Jerusalem, awesome as an army with banners! Turn your eyes away from Me, for they have overcome Me. Your hair is like a flock of goats going down from Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of sheep which have come up from the washing; every one bears twins, and none is barren among them. Like a piece of pomegranate are your temples behind your veil. There are sixty Queens and eighty Concubines, and Virgins without number. My Dove, My Perfect One, is the only one, the only one of her Mother, the favorite of the one who bore her. The daughters saw her and called her blessed, the Queens and the Concubines, and they praised her. Who is she who looks forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, awesome as an army with banners?”*

As we declare to the world who Jesus really is, He will declare to us and to the world who we really are. The revelation of the Bridegroom and the revelation of the Bride will be a powerful witness that the world will be unable to resist. This or require our unity and pure wholehearted devotion to Jesus and one another.

The Bride Who Has The Final Word

In the book of Revelation, the book detailing the Leadership of Jesus during end time events, “The Bride” is the title most often mentioned to identify the Church. And in that same book, the very last mention of the Church is as a Bride. In the end, the church will come into her full identity as the Bride of Christ. We cannot fully become what we do not fully understand or believe. Jesus fully revealed...and His Bride fully revealed, working together in love and divine partnership, is the way the world will be won. The perfect combination of divine love and divine assignment. The world

has yet to see Jesus fully revealed. The world has yet to see the Bride fully revealed. Before the end of this age transpires, the waiting world will see both.

Revelation 22:12-17

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. ‘I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.’ And the Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

The Last Mention Of The Church

The last reference to the Church, the Body of Christ, Believers and disciples of the Lord Jesus, is a Bride. There is a reason for that. The final paradigm of relationship is that of a Bride. Someone once said: “Jesus died for a Bride” and that is true. Jesus is not coming for or those who are simply workers for Him, but for those who are in love with Him. Marriage speaks of union and partnership. Two become one. Married couples are “partners for life.” Jesus desires eternal partnership with His Beloved Ones. We are called to be eternally in love with Jesus, and yet, many are not in love with Him today. This is the first act of preparing for a wedding, to make sure you are in love with the one you are about to marry.

Conclusion

As hard as it may be to grasp, Jesus is not fully complete without His Bride. As someone once noted: “On the wedding day, no matter how good the Groom looks, the Bride always makes Him look better.” Two shall be made one. This is union. We are not complete without Him, neither is He complete without us. It’s an eternal covenant union of Husband and Wife. It’s a great mystery.

*“For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ‘For this reason a man shall leave his Father and Mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This is a great mystery, but **I speak concerning Christ and the Church.**” (Ephesians 5:30-32)*

Revelation 21:1-6

*“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as **a Bride adorned for her husband.** And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’ Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’”*