

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Revelation 19:6-10

Introduction:

1. The book of Revelation is a series of visions that God gave to the apostle John as he was exiled on the Island of Patmos. It was written in the late first century to a young church struggling with suffering and persecution, conformity to the world, complacency in their faith, and doctrinal clarity. It was a hard time to be a Christian. God gave Revelation as a gift to His people not merely as a "Hang in there, better things are coming!" but as a way to see Jesus in their current circumstances. The stated purpose of the book is found in the very first phrase of the very first verse, "The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave him to show his servants..." (1:1). God, in His mercy, gave these words to show His people Jesus.
 2. In our text this morning, God is reminding His struggling people there is hope....there is hope because they are loved and because they are His. And it's my prayer that you leave filled with this hope this morning.
 3. Read Revelation 19:6-10.
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1. The Bride of Christ

- a) This passage is about the coming marriage supper of the lamb...the great wedding feast of Jesus with His people. But before we get into the details of this, don't miss the stunning truth that there is a bride. To have a marriage supper you must have a bride. Jesus (second person of the trinity, maker of the universe, Lord over all) is gathering a bride to Himself.
- b) God spoke of His relationship to His people in Hosea 2 in this way, "And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you will know the Lord." (v. 19-20). This image of God's people being the bride of Christ permeates Scripture (Isaiah. 54:4-6, 61:10; Jeremiah 2:2; Ezekiel 16:8-16; John 3:29; Ephesians 5:22-33).
- c) Application- This is important because we live most of our lives either unaware or unwilling to believe we are this loved. What a difference it would make to our insecurities, our fears, our despair, our overwhelmedness to know we are fully accepted and fully loved!
- d) Application- If all this is true, it also means we are totally secure. The apostle Paul draws a straight line between God's love for us and our security in Christ in Romans 8:31-39.--> True security can be found only in Christ. Is He yours?

2. The Bride Made Ready

- a) Read v. 7b again. There is a readying of the bride that takes place. To understand this, it would help to understand the marriage customs of the day. The groom-to-be would go to settle on a purchase price, after the price was agreed upon and paid, the marriage would be legal but they would not yet live together. They were betrothed (engaged). Then there was a period of separation. In this time, the groom would return to his father's house to prepare a room for them and the bride would be preparing herself for the wedding day. Finally, there was the wedding day. There would be the ceremony and then a 1-2 week celebration.

- b) This is what Jesus has done for His bride! He has come and He has paid the purchase price in His blood shed on the cross. He has returned to His Father's house to prepare a place for us. And He will come back to take us to Himself. And we will feast. Not for 1-2 weeks but forever!!!! Forever!!!!
- c) But we are not there yet. We are in the preparation period. We are engaged/betrothed. And until He comes we are making ourselves ready.
- d) Application- The million-dollar question is....how? How can we make ourselves ready?
- We need to be serious about and growing in our faithfulness to Him. And part of what this means is that we need to take sin more seriously than we do. Let's call it what it is...adultery!
 - We need to be serious about and growing in our affection for Christ.

3. The Corporate Bride

- a) Did you see the phrase in v. 6, "a great multitude"? This phrase is describing the gathered bride of Christ. And remember they are a multitude gathered from every tribe and tongue and people and nation (Revelation 5, 7). I, alone, am not the bride. My race, alone, is not the bride. My denomination, alone, is not the bride. We are a part of the pan-national, pan-generational bride of Christ. All of God's people from all nations and all times make up His bride.
- b) Application- Here's the point....I don't get to choose who is a part of the bride of Christ. It's His bride. He chooses. It's not my job to choose. It's my job to love and serve and care for.
- c) Application- These things seem so obvious that they hardly seem worth mentioning. But if we are honest, we must admit this is a struggle for us. We like to love and serve those we like and those who are like us. Or, we find it easier not to love and serve at all. We would rather hold grudges, critique the work of others, play it safe, stay in our comfort zones--> These are not options for us. To love Christ is to love His bride.

4. The Wedding Clothes

- a) Read v. 8 again. It was "granted", given to clothe herself. God, Himself, gives the wedding clothes we need as His bride. These clothes are the righteousness of Christ given to us at the cross. Our sin placed upon Him and His righteousness, perfection placed upon us. We are clean. Spotless. Holy and without blemish in the sight of God.
- b) But v. 8b says the clothing is "the righteous deeds of the saints". Which is it? Is it our deeds or is it given to us by God? Yes. Both. He gives us His righteousness and out of that flows good works (see Ephesians 2:8-10).
- c) Application- To be His bride, we must be dressed in His wedding clothes (Matthew 22:1-14). Are you? Have you trusted in Jesus and His work on the cross to make you righteous? He is inviting you to come this morning. Will you come and be His bride?

5. Conclusion

- a) Final thought... "Hallelujah" = "You praise God", a fitting response.