



Sermon Series Notes

“Preparation for an Eternal Wedding” (Revelation 19:1-9)

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vv.1-2 The first several verses of this chapter cause me to wonder whether or not those who are in heaven currently have knowledge of events taking place on earth. Somehow, when these events prophesied in the book of Revelation take place, a great multitude in heaven respond with a heartfelt and very emotional outburst. Can they see what is taking place? Are events communicated via angelic messengers, some kind of heavenly communication monitor, by Jesus, or even the Father Himself? It is another one of those mysteries of which we are not given any real detail. But we know that, by whatever means, when the end comes, multitudes in heaven know what is happening, and the response in heaven is overwhelming.

vv.3-5 Verse five calls for a response from everyone in heaven, both small and great. That’s the way it should always be when we respond to God. We should ALL respond.

v.6a There is something in this verse that I never saw before. It appears that when the exhortation goes out in verse 5, there is an even greater response. This voice from the throne is like a heavenly cheerleader urging on the hosts of heaven to give praise to God.

vv.6a-9

Every day I pray, “May your kingdom come, may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” We are right on the brink of the answer to that prayer in our study of Revelation. Beginning in verse 11 of this chapter, heaven opens, and Jesus, along with the armies of heaven, come to earth in a blaze of glory. Jesus destroys the armies of antichrist, casts antichrist and the false prophet into the lake of fire, sets up his kingdom on earth, and we rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years. The government of the world will be on Jesus’ shoulders, and of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end (Isa.9:7). And that’s what I had planned to focus on this weekend, the thousand year reign of Christ. But I was led differently, and I trust I was led by and have heard from the Lord.

At some point in the chronology of these events there is a wedding. It’s called “the wedding supper of the Lamb.” We are not clearly told when it takes place, but I believe it happens during the last part of the Tribulation, just before Jesus returns in His second coming. Whenever it happens, it is a very real event, with real food. See Luke 22:15; 24:41-43; Rev.22:1-2.

The earthly marriage relationship is meant to typify the eternal marriage between Jesus Christ and His bride.

- That's why friendship with the world is adultery against God (James 4:4)
- That's why sex outside of holy matrimony is sin (I Cor.6:13b, 19-20)
- That's why the man is the one meant to initiate the love relationship with his bride (I John 4:19 we love because he first loved us).
- That's why the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church (Eph.5:22-24).
 - The family is to be patterned after the church, not the church after the family.
- That's why the husband is called to give himself up for his wife (Eph.5:25-30).
 - To live and make decisions that are for the best interests of my wife. Hey husbands, would your wife say she feels that she is the most important thing in your life? At 8:42 a.m Dec. 27 (Saturday), with my son Jairus as a witness, I asked Wendy if she felt that anything in my life was more important than her. She said "NO."

What it will mean to be married to Jesus Christ?

- A physical union; presently we are betrothed to Christ (Eph.1)
- An out of this world experience
 - An experience far beyond the best marriage relationship anyone could ever have in this life.
 - In one study men and women were asked to list what they considered to be the top 5 romantic experiences they could have in marriage. The # 1 for men was physical intimacy (sex). Physical intimacy for most women was #5. Women talked about things like a dinner out at a favorite restaurant, a walk on the beach, etc. Now imagine an earthly marriage where you have every romantic experience you could imagine, and not one problem between you and your spouse, ever! Being married to Christ will be infinitely better.
- An eternal marriage
 - There is no "til death do us part."
 - I Cor.15:52-53...the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised **imperishable**, and we will be changed. For the perishable must cloth itself with the **imperishable**, and the mortal with **immortality**.
 - My first pastor back in S.C. has been married to his wife for 67 years. But 67 years compared to eternity is nothing! This is why Paul the apostle could say in Romans 8:18 I consider our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. Whatever suffering we go through in this life, no matter how great, is temporary, while the glory God has planned for us is eternal.

How does the bride prepare for this wedding?

- Proper attire; Rev.19:8 has a two-fold meaning
 1. Righteousness by faith
 - Matt.22:2-14; We must not think that this parable teaches that anyone can slip into heaven without being truly saved, be caught, then kicked out. That would be a violation of other clear Scriptures to the contrary. The simple teaching of this parable is that obvious rebels will certainly never get into the kingdom of heaven (see Rev.21:8). But some who are not

outright rebels may think they can get in, only to find that they do not have the proper attire. See Luke 18:9-14.

- Romans 3:21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.
 - Romans 6:23; 4:1-8; Zech.3:1-5; Romans 10:1-4; Phil.3:2-9; Gal.1:6-9; 2:11-16.
 - Eph.2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.
 - II Cor.5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2. Righteousness because of faith (James 2:14-26)
- II Cor.13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you – unless of course you fail the test?
 - See Matthew 25:31-46
 - Gal.5:6...The only thing that counts is faith **expressing itself in love**.
 - “Any spirituality that does not lead from a self-centered to an other-centered mode of existence is bankrupt.” (Brennan Manning, The Signature of Jesus).
 - “The crisis in the church today is the gap between what we believe and what we experience.”
- Oil of the Holy Spirit
 - Good works **alone** are not enough to get one into the kingdom of God (See Matthew 7:21-23).
 - See Matthew 25:1-12; Eph.1:13-14
 - Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children
 - I John 3:24...And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.
 - See John 3:5-6; It is not enough to be committed to a moral lifestyle; the rich young ruler, the Apostle Paul, The Pharisees were all committed to a moral lifestyle (Paul, Phil.3:1-9). We must be born again.
 - Purity
 - I John 3:1-3
 - II Cor.6:7 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.
 - See Gal.5:19-21
 - Faithfulness (James 4:4)
 - II Cor.11:2-3 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you **as a pure virgin** to him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

CONCLUSION

- What do you need to do to prepare for the wedding supper of the Lamb? Accept the invitation? See Rev.22:17; Once you've received Christ, live for Him, serve Him by serving others & reaching out in love; Purify your life from anything that has contaminated body or spirit;