

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

The Bridegroom

Matthew 9:14-17

Previously: Through the roof, which is easier, Matthew called, tax collectors & sinners

*The other rabbis only met with other "holy" people.
Jesus met with anyone seeking God*

Today: The bridegroom & new wine

Seasons of Weddings

20s & 30s

Bridal showers, parties, dresses, tuxedos

Friend getting married in Florida

The season comes and goes

There's a wedding to come. The biggest one yet.

Do you ever think of heaven as a wedding?

Parables of 10 virgins, wedding feast, being properly clothed, and more

The church is called the Bride of Christ

Matthew 26:26-29 NKJV - And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke [it], and gave [it] to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave [it] to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

[Pray]

9:14-15

The disciples of John - John the Baptist

Why do we and the Pharisees

We both do this, but you don't?

John's ministry - repentance

Fasting in sackcloth and ashes (Ninevah)

I appreciate that John's disciples respected Jesus enough to go ask him

Great that they were close enough to notice, despite John being in the wilderness

John's ministry would end, but Jesus' ministry still goes on today

If they were truly John's disciples, they would follow Jesus eventually

Pharisees known for fasting 2x a week (Luke 18:12)

There's was not out of humility, but spiritual pride

I'll bet, in party, they asked this because Jesus taught about how to correctly do it in the sermon on the mount, but his disciples weren't known for it.

Remember - fasting is not eating, not doing something, in order to more devote yourself to prayer - for a time

Social media, TV, Coffee, a meal, many meals

Jesus fasted for 40 days and was at the point of death

Fasting at times isn't fun - it's hard to say no to the screaming flesh

But it's important to deny our flesh and seek the spiritual from time-to-time

Especially for important decisions.

It's an essential part of spiritual growth.

Ancient weddings

Betrothal - remember Joseph & Mary?

1 year engagement

Groom goes away, prepares a place for his bride - building onto father's house

Then comes back, often unannounced, usually at an appointed time

Bridal party watching and waiting...then they go feast for a week

Turn to John 2:1-11

My hour has not yet come - immediately Jesus makes the connection between wine and his suffering, his sacrifice, his blood

The crushing of grapes, the winepress of God's wrath

Her concern vs. his concern

The wedding, her amazing son taking care of their immediate need at the party

Pop-pop and soda

His concern - the culmination of his purpose - the cross

Sacrifice for sin and sinner

John 2:10 NKJV - And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the [guests] have well drunk, then the inferior. **You have kept the good wine until now!**"

Joel 2:28-32 NKJV - "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on [My] menservants and on [My] maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. And it shall come to pass [That] whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

The last days there will be a great outpouring of God's spirit

And the fruit? Salvation.

The works? Prophecy, dreams and visions

God at work.

God's word revealed. Not a new revelation.

But eyes open to what was in front of us the entire time.

The eyes of Israel have been closed. The eyes of the gentiles have been open to the gospel.

Jesus says in Matthew... "can the friends of the bridegroom mourn when he's with them?"

Why would Jesus' disciples fast to commune with God...when he's right there with them. Right in front of them.

He'd go away one day - and send the Holy Spirit

In some ways, it's better! The holy spirit is within us all. Jesus could only be in one place at a time when He was on earth.

When the cross came, then came the mourning

While we wait for Him, we fast. He won't drink with us until that day, we should be fasting and sober until his return. Physically and spiritually.

Ready for the party. Looking for our groom.

Not out partying with men who aren't our husbands.

Adultery and spiritual idolatry - often equated in scripture

We are his bride.

John the baptist calls himself a friend of the bridegroom (best man, if you will)

John 3:29-30 NKJV - "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.

Revelation 19:7-9 NKJV - "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. Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed [are] those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

As his bride, if we love Him, we'll wait for him. We'll be expectant for him.

If Ash wasn't excited for the wedding, if she wasn't out dress shopping, making centerpieces, giggling with her friends about it, I'd think she didn't love me and didn't want to get married.

How are we? Are we excited for His return? Are we looking forward to heaven, dreaming of what it'll be like? Are we trying to keep ourselves spotless?

Or are we out in the world, not looking up, enjoying ourselves in any way we want now, looking for any lover to keep us company or give us a thrill?

As Christians, if we've met Jesus, if we've known Him even a little...this should be the desire and longing of our hearts...to be with him again. Not tomorrow. Not next week. But wanting Him to show up right now.

Maranatha.

*I think this is how we can really tell if we're engaged to Him or not
If our love is hot or cold or lukewarm. And don't worry, he can warm a cold heart.*

:16-17

Unshrunk cloth

My shirts, washing cold, drying low-heat

**Kind of an old thing for us, we tend to just buy a new shirt and not fix an old one
*Patches on my sweatpants as a kid***

The cost of clothes, especially then. Only had a few sets.

Quality over quantity - today's trends are quantity over quality

The tear is made worse - when the new piece ages, it was cut too small and shrinks and rips

The things we do to try and fix things, in our flesh, only make things worse

The spiritual can only be fixed with the spiritual

The problems in the church

The problems in our marriages

The problems in our own lives

Can only be fixed by God's answers, not man's answers

Answers not dictated by time or trend

But by the maker, the expert

**An expert tailor would never put unshrunk cloth on a nice garment
They'd find a match**

New wine, old wineskins

The wineskins stretch, expand
 Properties of the wine in them
 Animal skins

As the new wine goes in, the old skin has no more room to stretch, and tears, leaks
 New wine has a fermentation process to go through

The loss of both wineskin and the wine

Again, we have it so easy, we can just buy anything we want anytime

Dropping the gallon of milk at super1...

Vs. dropping it at home

Several points from the DGC commentary:

- 1 - The old institutions of Judaism could not contain the new wine, it would require a new institution, the church
- 2 - old and stagnant cannot be renewed or reformed - it requires new vessels
- 3 - Jesus came to introduce something new, not patch up something old - salvation and new creation

The point today - a relationship with God cannot be contained in ordinances of the law**The law is not abandoned, but it is fulfilled - at the cross**

Romans 6:1-2, 15 NKJV - What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ... What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

The seven churches in Revelation

- 7 actual churches in John's day
- 7 church ages throughout History from Pentecost to the Rapture
- 7 types of spiritual conditions of churches, some of which are all around us today

David Eats the Showbread

1 Sam 21:1-6

Is God concerned about the laws we keep? Yes, but for our own benefit
 When we obey the law, we show we love God.
 But are we under the law? Do we need to keep kosher? No.

Is the law the qualifier or foundation of our relationship with Him? No

An extreme example:

*Just because I don't cheat on my wife doesn't mean I love her
 It could just mean I haven't been faced with the temptation to do so*

But, if I love her, I won't cheat on her.

*The cause is love, the effect is obedience
 If I love, I will be obedient*

The Pharisees aimed to obey the law, but in it they didn't know God

Sadly, the church at large, has fallen into the same trap

We either replace relationship with legalism
 Or we use grace as an excuse for sin
Either way, we have no relationship with God.

*Why don't I drink? Because I have no desire to.
 Why do I have no desire to? Because my relationship with Jesus replaced that desire.
 AND*

*His Word says strong drink is not for King's and priests
 AND His Word says as believers we're Kings and priests
 And His Word says that we can have The Holy Spirit or the spirit of alcohol
 Which is more desirable to me, because Jesus lives in me?*

Why do I not have tattoos?

I may do the things that a legalist may do - but I don't do them for the law's sake

My heart has been changed and I'm bothered by them because the Spirit of God in me is bothered by them.

This, in part, is New Wine But it's more than that

It's a relationship. It's a work of God, being poured out by His Spirit - and His Spirit wielding His word.

**Too much law and you dry up.
 Too much "spirit" and you wash up.**

The armor of God wielded by His spirit

The logic of scripture - in light of His love, His heart

It's why certain doctrines some of the church holds to make no sense - in the light of His love

God's always wanting to do a new work

His Word will always back up His work

There's a new work, but not a new Word

God knows it'll tear, it'll rip, it'll ruin - both wine and vessel

So instead of forcing himself upon the old, he looks for those willing to do the new

Both are preserved.

God will still continue to use the parts of the church that are old, but they're missing out on the freedom of the new

Are we willing to be the new?

Are we looking for Him to do a great work and bring many to the wedding?

How can we tell? Where are we looking? Up for Him? Or down for something else? Leave here looking up. Ask God to make you expectant for His return, and his Work until then.