

THE CALL AND MINISTRY OF A FORERUNNER—DERRICK J SANDERSON

SESSION 4: REVELATION 19: JESUS A WARRING BRIDEGROOM, JUDGE AND KING

There has been a tragedy in the preaching on Jesus across much of the Western Church. We have failed to preach Jesus for Who He really is. He is not just a man who is fully God, that died on a cross for my sins, but rather a Man who is literally coming back to the Earth for a pure, spotless bride, to make ready a world for His Father to literally come down.

We will take a look into one of the most neglected books of the Bible. The book of Revelation is the Revelation of Jesus Christ (*Rev 1:1*). If we are a follower of Jesus, outside of the Forerunner ministry, we must understand Who it is that we follow. And as Forerunners, it is from that experiential knowledge of Jesus that we become a Voice preparing the Way of the Lord, not just a quickly fading Echo.

I. JESUS IS A BRIDEGROOM

There are a few places in scripture that we find this as being a true depiction of Jesus. It is important to understand that Jesus is a Bridegroom who is Jealous for His bride. And that we can truly know Jesus in the place of intimacy, through communion with Him in and through the power of Holy Spirit.

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...this joy of mine is fulfilled. (Jn. 3:29)

- A. John described what Jesus felt emotionally in saying “He who has the Bride is the Bridegroom”. To understand John, they had to know who He lived before.

The marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7) 1.

1. ***He has the Bride*** – Jesus has a bride in His heart because God promised Him a prepared Bride at the end of natural history.

2. ***He is the Bridegroom*** – He has tender love and burns with desire for His people.

- B. John described his ministry and lifestyle as a friend the Bridegroom who stands and hears Him.

3. ***The friend of the Bridegroom*** – the best man in a wedding does not seek to draw the bride's attention and affections to himself but to prepare her to receive the embrace of the Bridegroom. Paul spoke of ministries who preached or showcased 'themselves' (2 Cor 4:5; Phil 2:19-21). Friends of the Bridegroom prepare people to receive Jesus' embrace as the Bridegroom God empowering them to walk out the first commandment.

4. ***Who stands*** – diligent attentiveness to stand in God's presence in prayer and the Word

For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, and has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it? (Jer. 23:18)

5. ***Who hears him*** – to respond with obedience regardless of the price

- C. John described the joyful emotional impact that hearing the Bridegroom's voice had on him.

6. ***Because of the Bridegroom's voice*** – growing in revelation of Jesus as a Bridegroom

7. **Rejoices greatly...this joy of mine is fulfilled** – empowered with joy by receiving the revelation of the Bridegroom even in the difficulty of a desert lifestyle

II. THE GREAT HEAVENLY WEDDING

If Jesus is a bridegroom, then that means He has a bride. If Jesus is a bridegroom and He has a bride, then that means there will be a wedding.

“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.” (Revelation 19:7-9)

- A. We must understand that Jesus is coming back in context to a Bride who is ready. This marriage will take place towards the end of the Book of Revelation.
- B. There is going to be a literal wedding. This not just an allegory of a nice story. Jesus is coming for His bride.
- C. We must refuse all sensual overtones to the Bride of Christ message. Jesus is not our lover or boyfriend. We do not go on “dates” with Jesus. Receiving the “kiss of God’s Word” in Song 1:2 has nothing to do with physically kissing God!!! The spiritual interpretation of the Song of Solomon or references to the “romance of the gospel” have nothing to do with sensuality, but with the adventuresome love that is filled with a spirit of abandonment that sacrificially loves and obeys Jesus. An example of this is seen when Paul and Silas sang songs of love to Jesus after being beaten and thrown into prison (Acts 16:22-26).
- D. We are not “married” to Jesus in this age. Paul described believers as betrothed or “engaged” to Jesus. The “consummation” of the marriage is in the age to come when we see Him face to face. Single women do not “marry” Jesus in this age. Even in the age to come, they will not be married to Jesus in a special way that differs from married women or men who love Jesus.

I have betrothed [engaged; promised, NIV] you to one husband [Jesus]... (2 Cor. 11:2)

“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.” (Matthew 25:1-13)

- A. The Kingdom of Heaven will be likened to ten virgins:
 - 1. We must understand that all the virgins are saved! It IS the kingdom of heaven. Jesus is giving a parable of the end time church.
- B. The virgins go out to meet the bridegroom.
 - 1. This language is in pure relation to a wedding. To a marriage, a husband and bride relationship.
 - 2. The Virgins actually go out to meet the bridegroom. There is an action. To ‘Go’ is a verb.
- C. Five are wise and Five are foolish
 - 1. Jesus then begins to describe why they are wise and why they are foolish.
- A. The five Foolish Virgins
 - a. They had lamps, but they took no oil

Lamps: the lamp speaks of the ministry. Light goes ‘out’ from a lamp. Its purpose is to lighten the way. 9

 - (1) Just like when Zacharias prophesies of John. (Luke 1:79)
 - (2) Or when Jesus speaks of a City on a hill or a lamp on a stand.

Oil: speaks of the intimacy or relationship with Jesus. The oil is what fuels the lamp. Without oil a lamp can only burn for so long. If the wick of the lamp is not in oil, it will burn up quickly. Ministry void of intimacy will burn up quickly.
 - b. They asked the wise for their oil
 - i. You cannot be sustained without your own oil. You can only buy the oil that you have purchased.

- c. The wise responded, ‘***No, or we will not have enough for ourselves, go purchase for yourself.***’
 - i. Again, we cannot give our oil to others; we cannot sustain others in the place of intimacy with Jesus.
 - ii. We encourage them to get their own oil
 - iii. This is part of the Forerunner Ministry
 - 1. Before Jesus comes, we call others to the place of intimacy to prepare for that day. We call and invite others into this place of relationship with Jesus.
- d. When they went to buy, the bridegroom came and those there were let in
 - i. We see in context that if we do not have oil to burn and sustain us in that day, and we are found not waiting, but hurrying to rest and be and build history with Jesus, (which is Intimacy), that the bridegroom will not wait for them to get back.
 - 1. Jesus opens the doors and lets those in that are there.
- e. They return and Jesus responds, “***I never knew you.***”
 - i. They were in the kingdom, and yet Jesus never knew them
 - 1. Just because you might be saved by His blood, does not guarantee you entry into the wedding.

“Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!”

(Rev 19:9)

B. The five Wise Virgins

- a. The wise virgins operated in wisdom. Thus making them wise. When asked for their oil, their response was, “***I can’t give you mine. Go get your own!***” We must understand we cannot simply stand in close proximity to those who burn and expect to remain burning.
“He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.” (John 5:35)
 - 1. Jesus never said that they entered into the light, only that they were willing to rejoice in his light.
 - a. This implies they found satisfaction to simply be near and watch John burn, but they never entered in.
 - b. When John was gone...they couldn’t watch Him burn.

- b. Even in the place of falling asleep and the mundane of life, they were still buying oil, cultivating intimacy. The bridegroom was delayed.
- c. The ones who had oil were ready when Jesus came. They were able to sustain themselves because of the oil. They were left standing before Him.
- d. He let them into the wedding.

We also see in the context of the wedding in Revelation 19:10, it says that John bowed to worship the angel, and the angel tells him, ‘Worship God!’

“For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Rev 19:10)

In this context we see an angel declare what prophecy is: the testimony of Jesus. Interesting context: a wedding.

III. JESUS IS A JUDGE

This identity of Jesus is almost never discussed from the pulpit, or even in the classrooms of seminaries in the western world. We have turned Jesus into just a man who died on the cross. The True Gospel of Jesus Christ only begins with Him dying on the cross and being raised on the third day. Beyond that, Jesus ascended to the Right hand of the Father where He lives to intercede. The Bible teaches that this Man will not stay in Heaven forever, He is coming back. We must understand what this means. And we must understand that Jesus Judges in the context of being a Loving and Jealous Bridegroom!

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He(Jesus) who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire(Rev 2:18), and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood(Isa 63), and His name is called The Word of God(John 1:1). And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Revelation 19:11-16)

- A. We must first and rightly understand that Jesus Judges and makes war because He loves. He is a jealous Bridegroom and is Jealous for His Bride! He will make war and Judge any and all things that hinder His love.

“Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul...For Jealousy is a husbands fury; Therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will accept no recompense, Nor will he be appeased though you give may gifts.” (Proverbs 6:32, 34-35)

1. When we commit spiritual adultery and run to other things for love, that are outside of Jesus, it is because we lack understanding. We don’t understand who Jesus is, or who we are in Him.

2. Jesus is a jealous husband and He is so jealous, that when He comes for His bride, he will not relent.
 - a. Jesus' love cannot be bought through gifts
 - b. Those whom have hurt His bride, cannot appease or delay His wrath upon them. You can do nothing to escape it.
- B. We know that He is jealous for us because of the great lengths He went to purchase us. If death could not hold Jesus back, than nothing will stop Him.
 1. Jesus shows up with eyes of fire
 - a. God is Love, and God is a consuming fire. Jesus is consumed with Love and is vehemently staring at us.
 - b. Fire is also refining. He comes with His love to refine His bride.
 - c. All impurities will be burned out in a Pure Fire
- C. We see a depiction of Jesus that is very unpopular. His robe is dipped in blood.
 1. We find in Isaiah a description of this:

“Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” Why is Your apparel red, and your garments like one who treads tin the winepress? “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all my robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. I looked but there was no one to help, and I wondered that there was no one to uphold; therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; and My own fury, it sustained Me. I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth.” (Isaiah 63:1-6)

“And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and the blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses bridles, for one thousand six hundred Furlongs(181miles)” (Revelation 14:20)

“But you are those who forsake the Lord, who forget My holy mountain, who prepare a table for Gad, and who furnish a drink offering for Meni. Therefore I will number you for the sword, and you shall all bow down to the slaughter; because when I called, you did not answer; when I spoke, you did not hear, but did evil before My eyes, and chose that in which I do not delight...behold, My servants shall sing for Joy of heart, but you shall cry for sorrow of heart, and wail for grief of spirit.” (Isaiah 65:11-12, 14-15)

a. Table of Gad:

(1) Pagan Deity of Fortune

b. Drink offering to Meni

(1) Pagan deity of Destiny

c. God gives a clear call, “I called, you did not answer. I spoke, you did not hear.”

(1) Jesus says many times, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

(2) The Holy Spirit is moving and the Spirit of Prophecy is flowing.

(a) Spirit of Prophecy is the Testimony of Jesus

d. God makes a depiction that His servants will be filled with Joy.

We need a righteous Judge. We need One with Perfect Wisdom to decree. We need One whom is perfect to bring True Justice.

“He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.” (Isaiah 61:1)

In the place of pain and wounding, the deepest wounding, we find no rest or comfort. We can take vengeance in our own strength and try to ‘repay eye for an eye’ and not forgive. When we forgive we cancel the debt that is owed to us, and rightfully placing it in the Hands of Jesus. If Jesus is not a judge, then there will never be true justice.

The greatest injustice that has ever happened is an innocent Man dying on a cross for the sin of many. Jesus took on the greatest injustice, that He would be able to truly deliver Pure and Holy Justice, birthed from a heart of Love and Zeal for His Father and His Bride.

IV. JESUS IS A KING

The concept of Jesus being a king in theory is a little better received. People proclaimed that Jesus is a King. This is a clear depiction of Jesus. It is even taught in Sunday school classrooms and from some pulpits, especially around the time of Easter. Many will speak of the crown of thorns that were thrust into the brow of Jesus. We even see an encounter that Jesus has when He is asked if He is a king:

“Pilate went out to them and said, “what accusation do you bring against this man?” They answered and said to him, “If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you.” Then Pilate said to them, “You take Him and judge Him according to your law.” There fore the Jews said to him, “it is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,” that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die. Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered him, “Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world, If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews, but now My kingdom is not from here.” Pilate therefore said to him, “Are you a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” (Luke 18:28-37)

- A. Jesus himself spoke of His Kingdom while He was on the earth.
- B. Interesting situation:
 - 1. Pilate says to the Jews, “Go and judge him for yourself.”
 - a. There response is, “We can’t.”
 - b. You cannot judge the Judge

“Heaven opened and behold a white horse, he who sat on it...on His head were many crowns. And the armies in heaven...followed Him on white horses...out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. He himself will rule them with a rod of iron.” (Revelation 19:11, 12,14,15)

- A. On His head were many crowns
 - 1. Crowns speak of authority and Lordship
 - a. When we proclaim Jesus as ‘LORD’ and Saviour, we must understand who we claim Jesus is to us
- B. The armies of heaven followed him
 - 1. This is significant of the authority He has, and that He is the one leading
- C. Jesus will rule over the nations with a rod of Iron

“Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rules take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords with us’ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: Yet I have set My King on My holy hill Zion. I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like potters vessel.” Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled buy a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.” (Psalm 2)

1. We see that at the end of the age there will be a division. There will be no middle ground. Either you are angry and plot in vain against God and His Son, or you will put your trust in Him
2. The nations are Jesus’ literal inheritance. Jesus will claim His inheritance. It is rightfully His.
 - a. Many look at the Scroll in Revelation 5 as the ‘Title Deed’ to the Earth
3. Again, this isn’t just going to happen overnight. We will see an increase of evil. This particular passage is speaking of the Battle of Armageddon.
4. Dig deep into this passage and begin to talk to the Lord about it. Place it next to Revelation 19 and Isaiah 63-65. Ask Jesus to reveal Who He is.

We marvel and tremble in seeing what His love is capable of and how far it will go. So fierce is His zeal for love that He became human and was crushed by the wrath of God. This is the same love, zeal and wisdom that He manifests in killing oppressors who hate God at Armageddon. He uses the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love.

- A. Daniel prophesied that the Messiah as the Son of Man (the God-man) would rule all the nations.
- The Ancient of Days [Father] ... His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool ... Behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days ... To Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples ... should serve Him ... Then ... the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. (Daniel 7:9-14, 27)**
1. Son of Man is Jesus
 - a. Daniel sees what John sees in Revelation. Jesus coming on the clouds
 2. Jesus is given All Dominion

- B. As King of kings, Jesus will strike the nations to remove their wicked leaders and laws.
He should strike the nations ... He Himself treads ... the fierceness and wrath of God. He has on His robe ... a name written: King of kings and Lord of lords. (Revelation 19:15-16)
1. Jesus will systematically and with one great swoop remove the Wicked Leaders of the Nations

This is the Jesus that We follow. As a Forerunner you will trumpet Who Jesus is! But it won't be just head knowledge; it will also come from Experiential Knowledge. If we are truly spending time with Jesus, He will faithfully reveal Himself.

The revelation that John received in the wilderness was Jesus as a bridegroom, and the reality of being a friend of the bridegroom. Our foundation must rest in this Identity of Jesus. Out of the place of His love, He does everything!