

3 September 2017 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost.

Readings: Song of Songs 4:9-16; Rev. 19:6-10; Matthew 22:1-14.



INTRO: Review: Image-bearer; Child of God; Disciple; Soldier.

Today: Bride. **First:** Apologies to any men who will have difficulty with this concept, especially on Father's Day. In the beginning...

History began with a marriage; it will end with one. All else is preparation or celebration. **Second:** Each of you are called and chosen to be His bride. No bridesmaids here. **Illus. Chariots of Fire.**



I. Holy, radiant, spotless, blameless.

Ephesians 5:25-27, “Husbands, love your wives, **just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy**, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”

1 John 3:2-3, “Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**” Ever see a bride with a dirty wedding dress? “You are clean” – Jesus (John 15:3).



II. Full of faith, fire and passion.

Luke 18:8, “will He find faith on earth?” **Mark 12:30**, “You shall love the Lord your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your mind and with **all** your strength.” **Song of Songs 4:9-10; 5:8**, “You have captivated my heart, my sister, my bride; you have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace. How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much better is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your oils than any spice! ... I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, that you tell him **I am sick with love.**”

Revelation 2:4, “I have this against you, that you have abandoned **the love you had at first.**”

Revelation 3:15, “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. **Would that you were either cold or hot! The cure:** Repentance.



III. Clothed in good works.

Revelation 19:7-8, “His Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for **the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.**”

Genesis 24:14, 17-20, “May it be that when I say to a young woman, ‘Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,’ and she says, ‘Drink, **and I’ll water your camels too**’—let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master... The servant hurried to meet her and said, “Please give me a little water from your jar.” “Drink, my lord,” she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink. After she had given him a drink, she said, “I’ll draw water for your camels too, until they have had enough to drink.” **So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels.**”

Proverbs 31:10, 15, “An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels... **She rises while it is yet night** and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens.”

Matthew 24:45-46, “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? **Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.**”

1 Corinthians 14:1, “Pursue love, and **earnestly desire the spiritual gifts**, especially that you may prophesy.”



CONCLUSION: Revelation 22:17, “The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come!’ Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.” Image-bearer, Child, Disciple, Warrior, Bride. Amen 😊