

Our loving relationship with Jesus

Whenever I heard a message about our love relationship to Jesus especially a word out of the book "song of songs" I could not really relate to it. A short while ago, I heard a bible study and it helped me to see more connections between Jesus and his Church compared with marriage life. The Church is sadly not always reflecting this great love between Jesus and His bride, the church. The marriage relationship is for in the bible a foreshadow of the relationship the Lord Jesus has to His church.

Paul speaks about the marriage in Ephesians 5: 31- 32 *"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery but I am talking about Christ and the church."* Paul makes clearly this connection, but does not explain more about this mystery. He continues with the comments about marriage life. Verse: *"33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."*

I am sure that Paul knew a lot to say about the mystery of the church, but he wanted to deal first with the foreshadow of this mystery, the marriage.

As we think about the intimate fellowship the Lord wants to have with us as we read in John 17: 26 *"I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."* This reminds of the unity a man has with his wife as they are in God's side one flesh. **"I myself may be in them."**

Another word from Romans 8: 39 is describing the same truth: *"Nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* This love is not only coming from Christ, it is in Christ and if we are in Christ we are in this love.

Jesus is going for His bride to the mountain of myrrh. Song of Salomon 4: 6 *"Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense."* His love is so deep and He is willing to suffer for His bride in going to the mountain of myrrh, the mountain of Golgotha, where he is willing to become a sacrifice.

If I think about the apostle Paul I do not think firstly that he was a very romantic person. He founded many churches and suffered a lot but he can still say in the end of his life what really counts. 2nd Timothy 4: 6- 7 *"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day- and not only to me, but also to all who have longed (love) for his appearing."*

Sometimes life is so difficult for us and we would like to escape, but

Paul's waiting on the Lord is related to a deep love relationship to

Him. The same word is written in James in chapter 1: 12 *"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."* Holding onto the Lord in spite of many things we do not like and even not understand.

Where do we get to without His grace? Therefore Paul can write in Ephesians 6: 24 *"Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love."* Grace is released if we have a great love for our Lord. Without grace every thing even in our Christian life gets complicated.

As we think about the ten wise virgins in Matthew 25: 10 *"The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut."* In the end it only

counted who was waiting for Him and looking forward to His appearing and not how many churches we founded, influenced or how big our ministry was. For Paul it was only important that he was longing for the Lord and that he finished his race.

There is another aspect of our waiting on the Lord in the right way?

Right after the story of the ten virgins comes the story about the right use of our talents. Matthew 25: 23 *“His master replied, **“Well-done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”***“

Finishing our race and fulfilling our call is as much the right preparation as our longing for the appearance of the Lord.

With other words in Matthew 24: 45- 46 *“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.”*

The truth is that without the power and leading of the Holy Spirit we never know how to give food at the proper time to our fellow servants. Even to do so we need to be led by the Spirit of the Lord. Romans 8: 14 *“Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”*

John 14: 15: *“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”*

Exactly this is what Jesus is also doing concerning the commands He receives from His Father. John 14: 31 *“But the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.”*

Jesus is not speaking here firstly about the 10 commandments. Of course he knew that He should not steal or to break a marriage.

He is talking about the daily instructions the Lord would like to give to his children. What we are supposed to do, and with whom we should speak at the right time.

The same meaning has the word from Revelation 14: 3 *“These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes.”* The question is not so much if we are called to be married or single, but much more if we are willing to follow the Lord wherever He leads us? John 14: 21 *“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”*

Whoever has started to follow the Lord will receive His love and because he will know the Lord in an intimate way. As a response he will love the Lord more and more. John 15: 15 *“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”*

John 21: 15 After Peter missed it and denied Jesus three times at the fire place, the Lord asked him again in similar circumstances on a fireplace (John 21), where he had prepared some fish. Three times He asked him, do you love me? After his love relationship to the Lord was restored the Lord spoke destiny into his life. He will call also us and say to us: Yes I believe you can do this, that is what I have called you to do.

I heard in a in a bible study about the Song of Salomon, that the watchmen can be compared with delegated authorities of this world.

The first time the Watchmen did not understand what Shulamite was talking about as she looked for her beloved. The second time they beat her up, but Shulamite did not even complain. She does not expect to be understood and was only concerned how

to find her beloved.

The whole book of the song of Salomon has two main players. The bride and the bridegroom and they are the centre of the story. The watchmen are not so important and play a minor role, as it comes to the love relationship the Lord has to His bride church. We live in a time where the bride is making herself ready to meet the bridegroom Jesus. We will experience what is written in 1st Corinthians 2: 9 ***“However as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.”***

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