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Sermon Notes

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The Wedding Consummation: Christ and His Bride

Psalm 45

I. The Profound Mystery of Marriage

A. The First Wedding: A Suitable Helper for Adam

B. Marriage Fundamental to God's Plan

1. Endowed by God: equally in God's image, well-suited for each other
2. Matched by God
3. Blessed by God
4. Comanded by God: fill the earth, subdue it, rule over it... ONLY POSSIBLE THRU MARRIAGE

C. Symbolic of God's Relationship with His People

1. God's relationship with Israel likened to marriage

Isaiah 62:5 "...as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you."

Jeremiah 2:1-3 The word of the LORD came to me: ² "Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: " 'I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the desert, through a land not sown. Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest..."

2. Israel's unfaithfulness to God likened to adultery

Jeremiah 3:6, 9 During the reign of King Josiah, the LORD said to me, "Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has committed adultery there....Because Israel's immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood.

D. Blending: Physical and spiritual significance

1. Humanity created in the image of God: mental, spiritual
2. Physical nature an extension of personhood

3. Marital love a marvelous earthly picture of total unity

II. The Context of Psalm 45

A. God's Covenant to David: 2 Samuel 7

1. Context: David's desire to build a house for God
2. God's astounding promises to David

2 Samuel 7:5-17 [vs. 11, 16] "The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his Kingdom forever.... Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

3. Never lack an heir
 - a. if David's lineage ever failed to produce a son, or if all the sons were killed, God's promise would be broken
 - b. every single generation would successfully procreate... one of those sons would take the throne

Some of those Davidic kings were idolatrous, wicked men... but they all did their duty when it came to leaving an heir

[Jehoram slaughtered all his brothers in order to establish his kingdom... God hated Jehoram's sins... he was idolatrous and "walked in the ways of the Kings of Israel"]

2 Chronicles 21:7 "Nevertheless, because of the covenant the Lord had made with David, the Lord was not willing to destroy the house of David. He had promised to maintain a lamp for him and his descendents forever."

- c. occasionally the lineage came perilously close to being cut:

2 Chronicles 22:10-12... Athaliah, mother of Ahaziah, wanted to grab the rule for herself... slaughtered all the sons of Ahaziah, thinking to cut off all of David's descendents; Jehosheba rescued one of the sons, little baby Joash, and hid him with his nurse in a bedroom

4. Finally, the true king will come... Jesus Christ, Son of David

B. Each Davidic King: Must have a Bride

1. Marriage central to this whole plan
2. Each Davidic king needed a wife to bear the heir

3. Mother of almost every Davidic king listed in Kings or Chronicles
4. Thus, the wedding of a Davidic king was a major event... the Messiah's lineage would continue this way

C. Psalm 45's Immediate context: Davidic king takes a bride... the line to be continued

1. Tremendous joy
 - a. God's faithfulness to his promises
 - b. Peace and prosperity for the people
2. A poet moved to write a poem for the occasion

vs. 1 *"My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer."*

Actually, however, his tongue was stirred by more than just a noble theme for a specific occasion... for the Holy Spirit moved within him, constraining every word he wrote to make it a fit prophecy of Christ in addition to a wedding poem for a king

2 Peter 1:20-21 *"Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture ever came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."*

D. Deeper spiritual meaning: vs. 6-7, 17... ultimately can only speak of Christ

1. vs. 6: Addresses the King as "God," and say His throne will last forever and ever
2. vs. 17 states that the nations will praise the King forever and ever

Summary: Psalm 45 is a poem written for the wedding of a Davidic king; but it finds its perfect fulfillment in the triumphantly joyful wedding of our Lord Jesus Christ to His bride, the church

III. Psalm 45 Analyzed

A. Psalmist's Introduction: Inspired Verses for the King (vs. 1)

1. Psalmist commissioned or at least moved to write a poem for the occasion
2. "Sons of Korah" = along with sons of Asaph, groups of singers at the temple
3. Has the immense privilege of reciting these verses for the King in front of everybody

B. Address to the Bridegroom-King (vs. 2-5)

1. Psalmist calls the King: "the most excellent of men"

- a. common to flatter rulers

e.g. Henry the 8th, courtiers flattered him

- b. yet, of all the men who has ever lived, who is the most excellent?

Is it not Jesus Christ? Most excellent in wisdom, most excellent, in power, most excellent in compassion for the needy; most excellent in character and moral perfection... the most fit leader in the history of humanity

- 2. Excellent in word, blessedness and power

- a. excellent in words of grace
- b. excellent in eternal blessedness from God the Father
- c. excellent in power to crush His enemies: (3-5)

King seen as leader of the army... protection from powerful foes who ravage the land

1 Samuel 8:19-20 "We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

- i) King's sword: symbol of his mighty power

King Arthur had "Excalibur"... Jesus Christ has a gleaming dreadful sword: His word

- ii) Psalmist enjoins the King to gird Himself with His sword
- iii) King's horse awesome... a picture of military might and awesome power
- iv) YET it is power used with perfect righteousness... only the oppressor need fear

vs. 4-5 "In your majesty ride forth victoriously in behalf of truth, humility, and righteousness...:

Meek, gentle, humble people are welcomed and protected by this King in His Kingdom... powerful oppressors will be crushed

"Let your right hand display awesome deeds."

Mighty acts of power: dominance on the battlefield, so that all nations will tremble and the Kingdom may live in peace

vs. 5 "Let your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the king's enemies; let the nations fall beneath your feet."

Amazing consistency of Messianic Psalms: Christ's enemies will fall under His feet

Psalm 110:1 “The Lord says to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’”

Psalm 2:8-9 “Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”

Psalm 22:27 “All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of nations will bow down before him...”

C. The Glory of the Bridegroom-King (vs. 6-9)

1. Glorious in appearance

vs. 3 “...clothe yourself with splendor and majesty; in your majesty ride forth victoriously.”

2. Glorious on His throne

vs. 6 “Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.”

a. Solomon’s throne was visually glorious, perhaps even gaudy

b. Jesus Christ’s throne is glorious in moral perfection

c. it is an eternal throne

All other human thrones are temporary... the lesson of Daniel 2

All the Davidic kings died, and their thrones were passed to their sons

Jesus’ throne is eternal; no one can take it from Him; it is founded on His eternal victory over death

d. it is a righteous and just throne

Most human thrones are established by exploitation of the weak by the strong; wealth is acquired by mighty leaders over helpless victims; courtroom trials serve only to consolidate and advance the king’s interests

Christ is perfect in His justice and righteousness:

Isaiah 11:3-4 “He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.”

3. Glorious in His character

The essence of character is in what you love and what you hate; what are you attracted to and what repels you

vs. 7 “*You love righteousness and hate wickedness...*”

- a. Christ loves what is right... He exults in it and it brings Him pleasure
- b. He also hates what is wrong... He does not have a mild reaction when

- Politicians lie under oath
- Supreme Court justices twist the truth to line up with popular sentiment
- Scientists slant their data to line up with godless theories of human origin
- Parents abuse their children
- Criminal sell drugs to high school students
- CEO’s conspire to defraud workers of their fair wages
- Dictators oppress Christians for having Bible studies in their homes

c. THEREFORE God exalts Him

vs. 7 “*Therefore God, your God has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.*”

Anointing = ceremony as selection as King; Messiah = Anointed One

Anointing oils are fragrant; olive oil, myrrh, aloes, cassia

[Myrrh comes from resin of a rare Arabian shrub; aloe from the aromatic eaglewood tree, cassia an aromatic oil from steam distillation process from leaves, twigs, young fruit]

“Oil of joy” = God’s delight in the anointed one

God the Father is absolutely delighted with the perfections of His Son, Jesus Christ...

Matthew 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

BECAUSE Christ loves righteousness and hates wickedness, God exalts Him above every other human being that has ever lived

4. Glorious in His Deity

vs. 6 “*Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever...*”

- a. some commentators state that this address could be given to any mighty leader

- b. Hebrew = “elohim”...
- c. Christ’s citation of Psalm 82

Psalm 82:1 God presides in the great assembly; he gives judgement among the gods.”

John 10:35 “... he called them ‘gods’ to whom the word of God came”

- d. YET unusual direct address here... Christ is God and rules over all mankind

Hebrews 1:8 “But about the Son he says, ‘Your throne O God will last forever...’”

Amazing!! God the Father calls Him “God”... The deity of Christ is His greatest glory

D. Address to the Bride (vs. 10-12)

- 1. The poet turns now to the bride
- 2. He counsels her to forget her past and come away with the Bridegroom

vs. 10 “Listen, O daughter, and give ear; forget your people and your father’s house.”

She is from a foreign country; some Davidic kings married for state reasons women who were daughters of foreign leaders

But, like Ruth, she is urged to forget her people and her homeland, and to embrace her husband, and her God... She has a new home now, an eternal one...

So also Christ’s bride is foreign to heaven... but we are urged to forget the past; “The old has gone; behold everything has become new.”

- 3. He promises her the King’s undying affection

vs. 11 “The king is enthralled by your beauty...”

- a. Heb. = totally captivated... can’t take His eyes off of you for your ravishing beauty
- b. The King is deeply in love with His beautiful bride
- 4. He commands her to honor her king

vs. 11 “...honor him, for he is your Lord.”

- a. He is deeply in love with her... she is the bride, he is the husband
- b. in heaven, the earthly pattern is consummated... Christ is the head of His bride, the church
- c. He is the Lord, she is His submissive wife

E. The Glory of the Bride (vs. 13-15)

1. Her beauty
 - a. glorious robes, prepared in her chamber
 - b. golden jewelry imported from Ophir (vs. 9)
 - c. careful attention to detail... the bride is at her most majestic on her wedding day
2. Her joy
 - a. her face radiates the inner quality of joy
 - b. she is delighted to be in the presence of the Lord and husband
3. Her entrance
 - a. she finally makes her entrance to his palace
 - b. this will be her final home
 - c. she has the highest privilege of access

F. Psalmist's Conclusion: Benediction (vs. 16-17)

1. Back to the Davidic lineage
2. One generation will rise up to take the place of the next
3. This lineage will continue until the consummating king makes his appearance

Only Jesus Christ perfectly fulfills this final promise: "I will perpetuate your memory through all generations; therefore the nations will praise you forever and ever."

IV. Psalm 45: Fulfilled at the End of History

A. Christ's birth: fulfillment of this lineage of Davidic marriage

Matthew 1:1 "A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham..."

Joseph's marriage to Mary was the final one in over forty generations of these Davidic marriages... with that, the eternal king would be born

Matthew 1:20 "After he had considered [divorcing Mary] an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'"

Romans 1:3 "...as to his human nature was a descendent of David..."

Jesus Christ, born in his human nature, was the ultimate product of one generation of these human marriages after another

B. John the Baptist's statement: "Bridegroom is here"

1. John's disciples jealous of Jesus' early success in baptizing more people than John
2. John speaks of a coming marriage, and of his role

John 3:29 "The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete."

The bridegroom is Christ, the flocking people whom Christ is baptizing will make up his beautiful bride

C. Christ's own teaching: a wedding feast to come

1. The question about fasting

Matthew 9:15 Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast."

2. The parables

Matthew 22: The Kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for His Son...

Matthew 25: Wise and foolish virgins... Christ is the coming bridegroom

D. Paul's mysterious teaching: Christ and the Church

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." ³² This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.

1. A picture of headship and servanthood
2. A picture also of the beautification of the bride

Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

2 Corinthians 11:2 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.

Christian ministry is at its core the preparation of the bride of Christ, that she may be glorious, without spot or stain or any kind of imperfection

E. Revelation: A vision of fulfillment

Revelation 19:7-9 For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. ⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) ⁹ Then the angel said to me, "Write: `Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' " And he added, "These are the true words of God."

Revelation 21:1-2 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

V. Applications

A. The fulfillment of God's promise to David

- Rejoice that God has fulfilled the Davidic covenant in Jesus Christ... all those weddings, over 40 generations of Davidic descendents have done their duty under the sovereign hand of God
- Our God is a PROMISE-KEEPING God!! In the same way He has made a covenant with you: "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved!!"

B. The glory of the bridegroom & His throne

- Rejoice in the majestic glory of the bridegroom, Jesus Christ
- Rejoice that His throne is an eternal throne
- Understand that His throne is based on righteousness
- As He loves righteousness and hates wickedness, ask "Do I?" Do I love what is right? Do I hate what is evil?
 - Do you rejoice when the word of God is faithfully taught? When an international student is baptized? When missionary reports come in reflecting growth among a previously unreached people group? When a Supreme Court decision establishes righteousness rather than wickedness
 - Do you hate evil? Do you despise the immorality of popular entertainment, or among elected officials? Do you hate injustice to oppressed/economically disadvantaged people? Do you hate abortion? Do you hate when God's people are persecuted?

C. The glory of the bride

Revelation 19:8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

Revelation 21:2 prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

- Are you covering yourself with the fine linen by doing the righteous acts God requires?
- Are you cleansing yourself so that you are without stain or wrinkle or an other blemish?
- Are you helping others to do the same through evangelism and discipleship?
- Are you praying for the preparation of the bride?
- Rejoice that, in heaven, this process will have been completed... the bride will be perfect!

D. The strategic sacredness of marriage

1. Where did the bridegroom come from? Physically descended from David THROUGH MARRIAGE!
2. Where does the bride come from? People from every tribe, tongue, people, language... PHYSICALLY BORN THROUGH MARRIAGE
3. The strategic importance of the family
 - a. husband-wife relationships utterly critical to the health of a church
 - b. parent-child training also critical
 - c. sexuality (Paul's "profound mystery") a point of tremendous vulnerability
 - d. Satan's constant attacks on this area