

“WORD OF LIFE”

November 24, 2024

46. CHRIST IN HIS PERSON (26) – In the Parables of the New Testament

P - 4. The Bridegroom with the Sons of the Bridechamber

Hymns: # 1160; My best love; Lord, how long / # 112 / # 27

✚ “So that what was spoken through the prophet [Psa. 78:2] might be fulfilled, saying,
‘I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world’.” (Matt 13:35)

[Parable – Being incompatible with religion]

Mat 9:14 - Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying,
Why do we and the Pharisees fast much, but Your disciples do not fast?

Mat 9:15 - And Jesus said to them,
The sons of the bridechamber cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they?
But days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

✚ “...Why do You speak in parables to them? (Mat 13:10)
“...And His disciples came to Him, saying, Make the parable ... clear to us. (Matt. 13:36)

❖ The Lord reveals Himself as the Bridegroom, with the sons of the bridechamber (Matt. 9:15).

- The disciples of John practiced fasting that frustrated them from enjoying Christ
“Why do we [John’s disciples] and the Pharisees fast much, but Your disciples do not fast?” (Matt. 9:14).
 - The ministry of John the Baptist was to introduce people to Christ
 - so that Christ might become their Redeemer, life, and all.
 - But some of John’s disciples drifted away from his goal, Christ, to certain practices
 - and turned those practices into a new religion
 - They were troubled by the feasting of Christ and His disciples and condemned them for not fasting
- The disciples of the Lord were gazing on Him and enjoying His presence
“Can the sons of the bridechamber mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them?” (Matt. 9:15).
 - In the ministry of the Lord on earth, His disciples were sons of the bridechamber
 - He reveals Himself as the Bridegroom, with the sons of the bridechamber.
 - The Lord’s disciples were those who were with the Bridegroom in His chamber,
 - when the Lord Jesus was taken up from the disciples into heaven, they fasted (Acts 13:2-3; 14:23).
 - Later they would become the bride (John 3:29; Rev. 19:7).

✚ “And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written,
“I believed, therefore I spoke,” we also believe, therefore we also speak,” (2Cor. 4:13)

✚ In dealing with the self-righteous Pharisees of the old religion the Lord indicated that He is the Physician to heal the sick. In dealing with the fasting disciples of John, who had formed a new religion, He revealed Himself as the Bridegroom coming for the bride.

- ✓ The Lord first healed us, then made us sons of the bridechamber.
- ✓ Eventually He would make us His bride.

✚ The Lord Jesus is not only our Physician for the recovery of life but also our Bridegroom for our living of enjoyment in His presence. We the sons of the bridechamber will be at a joyful wedding with Him, not at a sorrowful funeral without Him. How then could we fast and not feast before Him.

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 46 letter P – point 4)
[Preparing this “word of life” (SUPPLYING THE WORD IN MEETINGS OF MUTUALITY) was motivated by:
The Elder’s Training Book 8, Ch. 4, and The Administration of the Church and the Ministry of the Word, Ch. 11]}

Hymn 1160
Experience of Christ – Loving Him

1 Jesus is our lovely **Bridegroom**,
And our **Bridegroom** is with us!
Now our praying's
turned to **praising**
In His **Presence** glorious.

Chorus:

O our **Bridegroom**!
O our **Bridegroom**!
Lord, Thou art
our **Bridegroom** sweet!
How we treasure
Thy dear presence—
O what bliss and joy complete!

2 We are fellows of the **Bridegroom**
And our **fasting days** have ceased.
With the **Bridegroom**
in **His chamber**,
Joyfully we **keep the feast**.

3 We as virgins may enjoy Him,
Virgins simple, single, **chaste**.
Going forth to meet
the **Bridegroom**,
Out from all the world we haste.

4 We are guests by **God** invited
To His **Son's** great **wedding feast**.
Brothers, sisters, hallelujah,
From **religion** we're released!

5 Now **rejoice** with joy excelling,
Joy of joys, all else beside—
Not just fellows, guests, or virgins,
Hallelujah, we're the **Bride**!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Lord, Thou art
our **Bridegroom** sweet!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
O what bliss and joy complete!

Jesus Lord, my best love Thou art

1 Jesus **Lord**, my **best love** Thou art,
Thou hast fully captured my heart;
None compares with Thee,
none on earth or heav'n,
God yet man, most beautiful One!
How I longed to vanish in Thee
When Thy tender voice came to me.
All past loves forsaking most joyfully,
I'd just love Thee — wholeheartedly.

Chorus:

Who in all the world is as fair as Thee?
Or who else can **love** so romantic'ly?
Oh, most holy One, now You live in me!
Jesus Lord, I **deeply love** Thee!
No more trusting self, nor deceived I'd be;
I'd put off myself, just be filled with Thee;
Oh, let all apart from Thee fade and flee;
My one **love**, my **best love**, is Thee.

2 Jesus **Lord**, my **best love** Thou art;
I was once rebellious and hard,
But I drop it all now to come to Thee,
Self forsake, that like Thee I'd be.
When I live, be it Thou, I pray,
Not self's will, but **God's** I'd obey;
To Thine heart attuned, Thy delight I'd seek;
No more struggling, fully at peace.

3 Jesus **Lord**, my **best love** Thou art;
We two never, ever will part;
Thy dear presence is all my breath and might;
Thy **dear smile** is all my delight.
I would pour my heart out to Thee,
Love Thee, serve Thee, joined utterly;
My **eternal portion**, dear **Lord**, is Thee;
My one hope, Thy coming to see.

Lord, how long

1 **Lord**, how long, dear **Bridegroom**,
'Til You come, **Lord**, how soon?
Don't delay for that coming day,
coming day.
Grant me, **Lord**, **to be filled**
With You, **Lord**, every day.
Dearest **Lord**, take me all the way.

Chorus:

Come, **Lord Jesus**,
Please come, dear **Bridegroom**;
Precious One, come soon,
come soon.
Lord, consume me!
Oh **Lord**, don't let me stray,
Faithful to You all the way.

2 **Lord**, make home in all my heart
In my secret, deepest parts,
Hidden, **Lord**, and reserved
for You, for You.
You would be **preeminent**
In all things and all events,
Possessed by Thee to this extent.

3 In my prayer and deepest plea
In my spirit always be
Saturated and soaked with Thee,
with Thee.
This would be my life daily.
Every hour expecting Thee,
This I pray, **Lord**, desperately!

4 The universe, in it we see,
In the sweetest touch of Thee,
You're my choice
and my destiny, destiny.
Lord, whate'er the price may be,
Lord, Amen, let it be!
Oh, **my Love**,
please come back quickly!

5 In Your **love** I am constrained.
What's within, I can't contain.
Lord, I can't any more restrain,
restrain.
In Your **love**, I'll pour on Thee.
And the **church**, Your **Bride** to be,
This my choice voluntarily.

Hymn 112
Praise of the Lord – His Redemption

1 How sweet is the story
of **Christ's** boundless **love**,
That brought Him to **suffer** from glory above!
He **died** in our stead upon **Calvary's tree**,
Obtaining **redemption** that we might be free.

Chorus:

Sound His praise! Sound His praise!
All the work has been done;
Praise His name! Praise His name!
Jesus, God's blessed **Son**.
We give Him the glory, our Savior and Friend;
Our song is of **Jesus** and never will end.

2 How wondrous the story!
the law's holy claims
Were met by the **blood**
which **redemption** proclaims.
The **judgment of sin** has been borne
by the **Son**,
Who glorified **God** in the work He has done.

3 How brilliant the glory
where **Christ** is **enthroned**
How rightly His name above others is owned!
Yes, **Jesus**, the Savior,
the glory-crowned Lord,
Is worthy by all to be ever adored.

Hymn 27
Worship of the Father – His Love

1 Come, let us all unite to sing,
God is **love**, **God** is **love**.
Let heav'n and earth their praises bring;
God is **love**, **God** is **love**.
Let ev'ry soul from sin awake,
Each in his heart sweet music make,
And sing with us, for **Jesus'** sake,
God is **love**! **God** is **love**!

2 How happy is our portion here!
God is **love**, **God** is **love**.
His promises our spirit's cheer;
God is **love**, **God** is **love**.
He is our sun and shield by day,
Our help, our hope, our strength, and stay,
He will be with us all the way:
God is **love**! **God** is **love**!

3 In glory we shall sing again,
God is **love**, **God** is **love**.
Yes, this shall be our lofty strain,
God is **love**, **God** is **love**.
While endless ages roll along,
In concert with the heav'nly throng,
This shall be still our sweetest song,
God is **love**! **God** is **love**!