

# **“The Big Day”**

## **(part 3)**

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(Notes for Communion.....prior to sermon and singing)

## **I. The Two Suppers**

### **A. The Last Supper**

1. Why do we have Communion?

#### ***a. Remember***

1. I Corinthians 11:24

*(24) and when Jesus had given thanks, he broke the bread and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me....*

2. Remember two earth shaking truths:

a. That God sent his son to become one of us

b. That Jesus died for our sins

3. We need to be reminded

#### ***b. Examine***

1. I Corinthians 11:27-29

*(27) Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. (28) A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. (29) For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.*

2. Time to examine

3. What are you struggling with?

#### ***c. Proclaim***

## 1. I Corinthians 11:26

*(26) For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

## 2. Proclaim victory over Satan and Sin

2. How long do we keep doing it?
  - a. I've done it since I was 10 years old
  - b. Millions of churches for 2000 years
3. The word "**until**"
  - a. I Corinthians 11:26

*(26) for whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

- b. Matthew 26:27-29

*(27) Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. (28) This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. (29) I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."*

- c. When will that be?
4. We are proclaiming that Christ will return...for his Bride

## **B. The Next Supper**

1. When will we join Jesus at the dinner table?
  - a. Have waited a long time
  - b. Million of suppers without Jesus
2. I'll explain later in the service

## **C. As the wedding approaches**

1. The bride and groom can hardly wait
2. The closer it gets....the greater the excitement

3. The entire family is swept up in it
4. The bridesmaids getting ready
  - a. The dress for Candace
  - b. Buying a pattern the day before
  - c. Carolyn and her sister
5. The emotional release after the wedding
6. Like giving birth to a baby
  - a. All the pain is gone
  - b. Swept away by overwhelming joy

#### **D. All creation is waiting for “The Wedding”**

1. When God’s son claims his bride
2. The focal event of creation
3. Angels yearning for this special moment
4. And you’ll be there
5. Pictured in the book of Revelations

## **II. Review**

### **A. The Profound Mystery**

1. Ephesians 5:31-2

*(31) “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.*

### **B. The Sacred Vow**

### **C. The Engagement**

### III. Text

#### A. The Wait

1. The Jewish bride eagerly waiting
  - a. The groom has gone to prepare a place for her
  - b. Promised to return for her
    1. When everything was ready
  - c. She didn't know when he would call for her
2. Our eager wait
  - a. Jesus left to prepare a place for us
  - a. Promised to return and take us there
  - c. We don't know when....yet we see the signs
3. All of creation is waiting

**a. Romans 8:22**

*(22) We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth birth up to the present time.*

**b. Romans 8:19**

*(19) The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.*

- c. To see us in our glorified bodies

4. We await "the redemption of our bodies"

**a. Romans 8:23-25**

*(23) Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

5. Your soul vs. your body at death
  - a. Paul in II Corinthians 5:6-8

1. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord
- b. The thief on the cross in Luke 23:43
  1. Today you will be with me in Paradise
  2. Different terms used to describe Heaven
    - a. “My Father’s House”
    - b. Paradise
    - c. Abraham’s bosom
6. The souls all await their glorified...and eternal...bodies

## **B. The Call**

1. When the Groom calls for his Bride
2. Time for the wedding ceremony
3. Characteristics
  - a. Bride didn’t know when
  - b. Had to be ready
  - c. Usually at night
  - d. As he approached, he would call out to her
  - e. A friend would blow a trumpet
  - f. He would carry her off to his father’s house
  - g. The wedding and the wedding supper
4. Jesus will call for us at the Rapture
  - a. For those of us alive today
  - b. For “the dead in Christ”
    1. Souls return with Christ

2. Meet us in the air

c. New bodies for all of us

5. A similar question in the church in Thessalonica

a. Assumed “the call” would happen in their lifetime

1. But many years had passed

b. Some of the believers had already died

c. Would they be left out of “The Call?”

6. Addressed in I Thessalonians 4:13-18

*(13) Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. (14) We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. (15) According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. (16) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (18) Therefore encourage each other with these words. (1) Now, brother, about the times and dates we do not need to write to you, (2) for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.*

7. Our exalted position

a. God’s children

**1. Romans 8:14-16**

*(14) because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (15) For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” (16) The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.*

b. God’s heirs

**1. Romans 8:17-19**

*(17) Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (18) I consider*

*that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. (19) The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.*

## **C. The Wedding**

1. Leading up to the wedding....
  - a. The Rapture of the Church
  - b. The Judgment Seat of Christ
    1. Rewards ceremony
  - c. Meanwhile back on earth
    1. The seven years of tribulation
    2. Purpose
      - a. Restore Israel spiritually
      - b. Punish sin
      - c. Prepare for the Kingdom
  - d. The tribulation will end after something happens in heaven
    1. The wedding
    2. Just before the second coming of Christ
    3. Imagine the glory of this wedding
      - a. Angelic choirs
      - b. All dressed in white
      - c. The guest list
2. The Ceremony is described in Revelation 19

### **a. Revelation 19:6-8**

*(6) Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting” “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. (7) Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! 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.)*

- b. That’s all we know about the wedding

## **D. The Wedding Supper**

- 1. Revelation 19:9

*(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.*

- 2. The wedding supper is like our wedding receptions
  - a. Pictured in the Passover
  - b. Pictured in Communion
  - c. Do it in remembrance of Christ *until* we do it with him
    - 1. At the wedding supper
    - 2. The splendor of “The Next Supper”

## **E. The Procession**

- 1. After the wedding, the bridal party cruises
  - a. Showing off the bride
  - b. Cans and streamers and horns
- 2. Jesus and his bride and others
  - a. The second coming
    - 1. At the end of the seven years of tribulation
  - b. Revelation 19:11-16

*(11) I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. (12) His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. (13) He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. (14) The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. (15) Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the*

*nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. (16) On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

c. The Battle of Armageddon

d. Jesus establishes his Kingdom

1. "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..."

3. Revelation 20:4-5

*(4) .....They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (5) (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. (6) Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.*

4. Next week....

a. What will you do in the Kingdom?

b. Why is it necessary?

c. What will you look like?

5. And what comes after the thousand years?

## IV. Summary

### A. But first...we've got some work to do

1. Our mission

a. Acts 1:7-8

*(7) He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. (8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

### B. The Church is the hope of the word

1. Paul Billheimer in *Destined for the Throne*

*“We have underestimated the supreme importance of the Church in God’s economy. She is the motive of all His activity from all eternity. The Church is His Body, the fullness of Him that fills all things everywhere. He is not full or complete without His Church, which is His Body.*

2. Dr. Wilbur T. Dayton

*“After the removal of His bodily presence from among them, His followers must be His representative, must take His place. This is the apostle’s commission and ours. We are His proxies with power of attorney to do His bidding.”*

*“As the Father has sent me, even so send I you” can mean nothing less than that we are His deputies with full authority to enforce, through prayer, the divine will and program.*

3. Do it **“until”**

**C. Jesus...hope of the nations**