



Fundamentos

LESSON 59

Foundations Curriculum

A Bride for the Son

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Introduction

A Bride for the Son

In this fifty-ninth lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we turn our attention to a truth that should stir our hearts: the return of Jesus for His bride.

Our intention is to help the church direct its heart toward this truth and expectation. Does your heart beat for the return of Christ?

1) Is God fulfilling a purpose for His Son? What Is Jesus' desire for His people?

In the previous lesson, we spoke about what God wanted when He created man. We clarified the mistake that many people make, thinking that God's purpose is to save man from sin and eternal condemnation.

If, before the foundation of the world, God had had the purpose of saving man, then He would be an accomplice of sin, because He would need man to sin in order to fulfill His purpose. That would make no sense.

It would be as if God had said, "do not eat of that fruit," while actually wanting man to eat it and sin, becoming lost and in darkness. In this way, God could fulfill His purpose of saving man and show His great love.

As we said before, God never wanted man to sin! Everything God does is perfect. He even created man in His image and likeness precisely so as to have him as a perfect son who would manifest His glory.

As we have already seen, and as we have seen throughout our journey, God has kept His purpose from the beginning. He wanted a family of many children who resemble Jesus:

A family — Unity

Many children — Quantity

Resembling Jesus — Quality

All of this relates to what the Father wants. This family is being formed for Him, for His delight and glory.

At this point, we must ask ourselves: Is there a purpose being fulfilled for the Son? And for the Holy Spirit?

We need to pay attention here to the expectation of the Son.

2) The Father Wants a Family; the Son Wants a Bride

If God's purpose is to have a family of many children who resemble Jesus, Jesus' purpose is to have a spotless bride.

Jesus Himself said this, that He wanted a bride. But before He mentioned it, the first to speak about this theme was John the Baptist.

He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.

John 3:29 (NKJV)

The bride belongs to the bridegroom.

Whoever is a friend of the bridegroom rejoices at his voice.

This shows that there is no competition at all in his heart.

They told John that Jesus was baptizing and that everyone was seeking Him. They tried to stir up some competition between them. In response, John repeated that he was not the Christ and appealed to the image of the bride.

What did Jesus say on this subject?

The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,

Matthew 22:2 (NKJV)

In this parable, Jesus is referring to us as the guests invited to the feast — wedding garments.

I want to draw attention to the fact that Jesus refers to the wedding as a picture of the kingdom of heaven. This is the first reference He makes to this encounter. We are the guests.

There are parables that show us as guests, and others as the bride.

The wedding is also a reference to this feast in heaven.

Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the

wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Matthew 25:1–13 (NKJV)

Notice the difference between the expressions "is like" and "will be like." The first introduces the invitation that is extended in the present. The second points to the future—it speaks of a purpose that has not yet reached its fulfillment.

In this parable, Jesus draws a contrast between two very different kinds of brides.

He also speaks of **oil**, which throughout Scripture is a consistent picture of the Holy Spirit. We have already seen that everything God accomplishes in us is through the work of the Holy Spirit. He anoints our eyes to see, enlightens the eyes of our hearts, convicts us of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

What is Jesus referring to in the parable of the ten virgins?

Reading the parable carefully, we discover that the great difference between the two groups is their attitude of expectation.

Think about a bride and bridegroom in everyday life. What do they long for most?

They love one another. They long to be together. Their hearts are fixed on one day above all others—the day of their wedding. Everything else serves that moment.

There are preparations to be made, details to attend to, and responsibilities to fulfill. Yet through it all, their hearts remain focused on the day they will finally be together.

The same question confronts us as we read this parable: Where is our heart?

Do we live with the eager expectation of the wedding feast?

This is not a matter of romantic feelings. It is a matter of expectation.

The foolish virgins were not eagerly awaiting the bridegroom. Their hearts had become distracted.

I believe this is what the apostle Paul had in mind when he spoke of those "who have loved His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:8, NKJV). They were watching, longing, and living with joyful expectation for the day when the Bridegroom would come.

3) The Question Is Not Whether You Believe in the Coming of Jesus, but Whether You Love His Coming

Let us look at the Son's expectation for this encounter. He asks us to have this expectation.

But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.

Matthew 26:29 (NKJV)

Wine in Hebrew culture appears as food, flavor, feast, and celebration. Jesus, like every Jew, enjoyed wine. He even made it at a wedding to which He was invited (His first recorded miracle).

But here we see Jesus expressing His expectation of drinking it in the future, in the Father's kingdom — when we (the church) are with Him.

Could there be a greater expectation of a reunion, of a celebration?

We can see this same posture in Jesus' prayer in John 17:24.

Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

John 17:24 (NKJV)

Can we imagine Jesus having an expectation of being with someone who does not have that same expectation of being with Him? Or even a greater one?

Does any bridegroom desire to be with a bride who does not want so very much to be with him?

The emphasis on the family of many children (as God's Eternal Purpose) has to do with character. The emphasis on the bride has to do with expectation (of meeting Jesus again).

4) Where Is Your Heart? What Are You Live For?

What is the great expectation that shapes your life? As important as it is to long for the Bridegroom's return, there is another essential ingredient that Jesus desires to find in His Bride. The apostle Paul expressed it this way:

"For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

2 Corinthians 11:2 (NKJV)

Those who are familiar with Paul's letters know that his second letter to the Corinthians reveals his heart in a particularly personal way. He shares concerns, fears, and burdens that are not expressed with the same intensity elsewhere. One of those burdens was that the believers' hearts might be led astray from their wholehearted devotion to Christ. Paul says that he was jealous for them with God's own jealousy because he desired to present them to Christ as a pure virgin.

The emphasis here is faithfulness.

Every bridegroom desires a bride whose heart belongs to him alone.

Could Christ have a rival in our hearts?

That is a sobering question.

Anything we love more than Christ becomes a rival for our affection.

Whether it is the world, personal pleasures, possessions, reputation, or even our own ministry, anything that occupies first place in our hearts competes with the One to whom we belong.

Even ministry itself can quietly become an idol.

Paul's desire was that the Church would be presented to Christ as a faithful Bride.

Jesus has only one Bride. Our calling is to remain faithful to Him.

Earlier we considered the family of God.

There, the emphasis was on character—growing into the likeness of Christ as sons and daughters of the Father.

Now the emphasis shifts.

The picture of the Bride speaks of expectation, devotion, and wholehearted affection.

The Bride lives in joyful anticipation of the Bridegroom's coming.

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Halleluiah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

Revelation 19:6–8 (NKJV)

* Some English translations use expressions such as **"arrayed"** or **"adorned."** The emphasis, however, is not merely on outward beauty, but on preparation.

The Bride **has made herself ready**.

Think of a bride carefully preparing for the day she will meet the one she loves.

That is the picture Jesus gives His Church.

Here we see the Father's purpose for His Son reaching its glorious fulfillment.

The Kingdom reaches its consummation.

The Bridegroom receives His Bride.

And those who have lived in eager expectation enter into His joy.

The fine linen, Scripture tells us, represents the righteous acts of the saints.

A Call to Faithfulness

This passage also speaks to our own generation.

We live in a world that increasingly celebrates what God calls sin and often rejects what He calls good.

Our minds are constantly being shaped by values that stand in opposition to His Kingdom.

Practices that violate God's design for life and humanity are not only tolerated but frequently celebrated, promoted, and defended.

Truth is often silenced.

Faithfulness to Christ is increasingly opposed.

Millions are enslaved by sexual immorality and pornography.

The pressure to compromise grows stronger with each passing generation.

For that reason, the Church must remain vigilant.

The question is not whether the culture is changing.

The question is whether our hearts remain wholly devoted to Christ.

The Bride who eagerly awaits the Bridegroom also remains faithful to Him while she waits.

That is the expectation Jesus desires to find in His people.

We must fight against this and preach against it!

May the Son's expectation be fulfilled in our hearts — to find a pure bride who loves Him and is longing for His return.

REVIEW OF THE CONTENT

In this fifty-ninth lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we learned about the desire of the bridegroom. About what Jesus expects. He expects to find a bride (the church) that is holy and longing for His coming.

The parables instruct and warn that we need to prepare ourselves for that day, and more: to desire it ardently. After all, what bridegroom would be happy to find a bride who is inattentive or not longing for the wedding day?

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

01 Do I prefer the “joy of” the coming of the Lord over any other joy?

02 Am I preparing myself for this day?

03 Am I practicing righteousness, or clinging to unrighteousness?

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

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