

God is Calling Out a Bride

An Undeserving People

Matthew 22:2 (NKJV): 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,

Matthew 22:8 (NKJV): 8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.

Acts 13:44–46 (NKJV): 44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. 45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, **they were filled with envy**; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. **46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.**

This rejection is the continuation of the rejection of Christ

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Jesus is using parables now because they rejected Him. This is the reason for the blindness

Acts 15:7 (NKJV): 7 And when there had been much dispute, **Peter rose up** and said to them: “Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, **that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.**

Acts 15:12–17 (NKJV): 12 Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles. 13 And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, “Men and brethren, listen to me: 14 **Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.** 15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: 16 ‘After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; 17 So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name,’ Says the Lord who does all these things.”

Having been justified we are now in association and united with Christ as, members of a body

2 Corinthians 11:2 (NKJV): 2 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.

Hosea 2:19 “I will betroth you to Me forever; **Yes, I will betroth you to Me In righteousness and justice, In lovingkindness and mercy;**

1 Corinthians 12:12–13 (NKJV): 12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

This espousal is made possible through faith in the testimony of John the Baptist John 1:29–34 (NKJV): 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ 31 I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.” 32 And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. 33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

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The testimony of Jesus Christ — John 5:24 (NKJV): 24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. , John 5:31–34 (NKJV): 31 “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. 32 There is another who

bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true.

33 You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. 34 Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.

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The testimony of the Apostles — Acts 22:12–15 (NKJV): 12 “Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there, 13 came to me; and he stood and said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that same hour I looked up at him. 14 Then he said, ‘The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. 15 **For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.**

Acts 22:16–21 (NKJV): 16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’ 17 “Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance 18 and saw Him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.’ 19 So I said, ‘Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. 20 And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.’ 21 Then He said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.’ ”

1 John 1:1–4 (NKJV): 1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—2 the life was manifested, **and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life** which was with the Father and was manifested to us—3 **that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.** 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

1 Corinthians 2:6,7 (NKJV): 6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 1 Corinthians 2: 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,

This is the wisdom that Christ was speaking to Nicodemus —

John 3:9–10 (NKJV): 9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? Though the concept of being born again might have occurred to man the true realization of it had yet to be experienced.

Again the wisdom of this world contrasted with the wisdom of God — John 9:39–41 (NKJV): 39 And Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.” 40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, “Are we

blind also?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.

Romans 8:29–30 (NKJV): 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.