

The Ideal Bridegroom

Psalm 45:1-9

Halifax: 2 May 2010

Introduction

Last week, we began a short series from Psalm 45, the wedding Psalm.

- We saw that this Psalm was likely written on the occasion of the wedding of King Joram and Athaliah.
 - That is not certain.
- But the thing that is very clear is that whose-ever wedding may have been the occasion for the composure of this Psalm,
 - This Psalm is about One who is far more excellent than any ordinary King.
 - Even the Jewish interpreters understood it to refer to Him.
 - This imagery of a royal wedding is here used to speak to us about our Lord Jesus Christ and His marriage to the church which is His bride.
 - The King of kings and the Lord of lords has come to take a bride for Himself out of this fallen sinful world and to bring her into His house.
 - And in this Psalm He is exalted and praised, and His bride is presented to us in all her happiness as the one who leaves all to enter into His house forever.
 - Marriage is a picture of the glorious relationship that Jesus Christ has with His church.
 - Individual marriages are sometimes it a good picture and sometimes a very distorted picture, but they are always a picture.
 - In this Psalm, we sing praise to our God for this wonderful relationship of Christ and His church and we glory in it.
- But there is also something that we may glean from this Psalm.
 - We may learn what our marriages *ought* to be.
 - When we see how Jesus Christ is described using the imagery of a husband, we learn what husbands ought to be like...
 - And when we see the Bride of Jesus described, we learn what brides are to be like.

And so in taking a few weeks to focus on this Psalm, we are going to look at Jesus and His relationship to the church as it is revealed in this Psalm,

- and we are going to consider our own marriages in which we are called to live out the relationship we have with Christ with our spouse.
 - Today, we are going to focus in particular on Christ the bridegroom and on what husbands are called to be.

- So let's get right down to business here...

The Psalm gives an adoring description of the excellence of the bridegroom in verses 2-9.

First, I want you to see that:

I. The ideal bridegroom is a blessed man.

- This is brought out for us in verse 2:
 - Psalm 45:2: You are fairer than the sons of men; Grace is poured upon Your lips; Therefore God has blessed You forever.

A. A blessed man is one on whom God has set His favour—on whom He has poured out His blessing.

1. We often sing about the blessed man in the Psalms
 - a. We sing about the blessed man in Psalm 1.
 - He is described as a tree planted by the waters whose leaf will not wither.
 - He brings forth fruit in its season and whatever he does shall prosper!
 - It must prosper because it has God's blessing joined to it.
 - b. We sing about the blessed man in Psalm 32 as the one to whom the Lord will not impute sin.
 - He is blessed because God, through Christ has made him righteous.
 - c. We sing about the blessed man again in Psalm 112.
 - He is described there as a man who fears God and delights in His commandments.
 - He is described there as man who has abundant wealth in his house and who is constantly enriching others out of that abundance!
 - He has no fear of the wicked and of all their assaults because he is confident in the Lord His God who constantly looks after him...
 - and who brings forth good for him out of even the worst of calamities.
2. Like Noah, the blessed man is the man who has found grace in the eyes of the Lord so that the Lord has singled that man out to show favour to him.
 - God Almighty is looking for ways to do good to that man and to show favour to Him,
 - And of course the LORD always finds a million ways to do whatever it is that He has purposed to do.
 - If He has set Himself to bless a man, that man will surely be blessed!

B. And that blessing will make a difference in that man.

1. He will be fairer the sons of the men as it says in verse 2...

- a. The word fairer is used twice in the original for emphasis...
 - He stands out because He has the grace of God in His life.
 - He is full of the goodness of the LORD.
 - He has a life that shows the imprint of God—
 - The love of the Father is evident in him...
 - He gives himself for others.
 - God's blessing makes him fairer than men who are not blessed.

- b. When we see this, we immediately think of our LORD Jesus Christ!
 - He is the fairest of ten thousand!
 - He is the perfect image of the Father in human flesh!
 - There is no one comparable to Him!
 - Such obedience to the Father as brought Him to the cross!
 - Such love for us as brought Him to the cross to take our curse!
 - Such service for us as the one who stoops to wash our feet.

- c. Yes, ultimately, this can only be said of Jesus that he is fairer than the sons of men...
 - But I want you to know that it can also be said of those who are in Christ.
 - My brothers and sisters, you are a new creation in Jesus Christ.
 - And He is at work in you to make you more and more like Him.
 - Yes, He is actually restoring God's beautiful image in you so that you will love the way He loves and serve the way He serves and obey the way He obeys!
 - If you are in Christ,
 - This work has begun in you—and it is this work that makes you who are husbands fit to be a husband—
 - and that enables you to be the right kind of husband.
 - It puts you in a place where you can receive His blessing and grace so as to be what He calls you to be.
 - It sets you apart from men who don't have the grace of God.

- 2. One of the chief ways this beauty shows is in a man's speech.
 - We are told that the groom has grace poured upon His lips!
 - a. Again, we immediately think of our dear Lord Jesus.
 - He came to us as the living Word of God, speaking as no man had ever spoken.

- When the people of His home town heard Him speak, we are told that:
 - “all bore witness to Him and marvelled at the gracious words which proceeded from His mouth.” (Luke 4:22).
 - Oh my brothers and sisters,
 - He speaks such gracious words of peace to us!
 - He tells us to come to Him as we labour under the toil of sin and that He will give us rest!
 - He tells us that our sins are forgiven!
 - He tells us that He is going to prepare a place for us in His father’s house.
 - His words bring life to us—
 - He speaks and everything is changed!
- b. Surely our own speaking is one of the things of which we are all most ashamed.
- We say the wrong words—to our wives, to our children, to our parents, to our neighbours—
 - So often we don’t even know what to say.
 - But just think how much Christ has changed our speech!
 - He has put new words in our mouth—songs of praise to our God!
 - We have the message of salvation and hope to proclaim to the nations and to our own household.
 - Oh that He would pour out more grace on our lips...
 - but praise Him for the grace He has already given us to speak His truth who used to speak only lies!
- c. Every groom needs this.
- If there is no truth on his lips, he is entirely unfit to lead a home—to be the kind of husband he ought to be.
 - If there are no words of forgiveness, no words of encouragement in the gospel, no words of hope in God’s promises,
 - how can he possibly lead his home toward God?
 - He cannot.

C. And I want you to see the relationship of all this to God’s blessing...

1. At the end of verse 2, it says that God has blessed the groom *because* he is fairer than the sons of men and *because* he has grace poured upon his lips.

- We might ask which comes first here...
 - Does this mean that God blesses him *because* He has this loveliness...
 - Or does it mean that he has this loveliness of life and speech because God has blessed him?
 - Does the blessing bring about the virtue, or does the virtue bring about the blessing?
- The scriptures teach us that both are true!
 - If we have any of this beauty in our life and speech,
 - it is because God has blessed us.
 - What do you have that you did not receive from the LORD?
 - But we are also told that God blesses His own gifts...
 - We are told that once His grace is at work in our lives, He delights in the fruits of that grace in us—the beauty of the new creation—and then he blesses us for it...
 - That seems to be the focus in Psalm 45, but you can't have the one without the other.
 - The great news is that blesses His own gifts!
 - You can't go wrong.
 - Once we are His,
 - He blesses us with new life
 - And then He blesses us again because He delights in the new life that we have.

TRANS> And important to the subject of marriage...

2. When you have His blessing, it makes you a blessing to others...
 - It makes you a blessing to the members of your household!
 - You bring God's blessing and grace into your household.
 - When God blessed Abraham, He also promised to bless his children.
 - When God blessed David, He also promised to bless his children.
 - When God has made a mother or father to be holy, he also declares that their children are holy.
 - You say, "yes, but I have so many failings—how does it not stop up His blessing?"
 - Look to Jesus.
 - Don't you see!

- He is the one who receives the blessing of God and conveys it to us so that we may be blessed and be a blessing to others!
- And ladies,
 - If you are not married,
 - you see how foolish it would be to marry a man who is not clearly in Christ, receiving the blessing of Christ so that God's grace is seen in his life and in his speech.
 - Such a man it not able to bless his household.
 - Why would you marry a man who has no ability to bless his house?
 - And if you are married,
 - you see how important it is for you to pray earnestly for you husband and to encourage him to seek the grace of God...
 - Not that you and even your children cannot be blessed if he is not a blessed man—for you can...
 - but how much better if that blessing comes through your husband as the head of your home.

TRANS> How glad we ought to be for our LORD Jesus who is the bridegroom of us all.

- The Father is delighted with Him and continually blesses Him and His household.
 - If you are a part of that household through faith in Jesus,
 - you can be absolutely sure of eternal blessing from Him.
 - If you are not trusting in Him, what is keeping you away?
 - Do you have some other source of blessing?
 - You may think you do, but I assure you that apart from Christ, you have nothing but a curse.
- Now let us move on the second thing we learn from this Psalm about the ideal bridegroom...

II. The ideal bridegroom is a man who takes dominion of the earth. He is a man with a mission for God.

A. The man in verses 3-5 is spoke of as a mighty warrior for the LORD.

1. As we address Him in this Psalm, there is an air of excitement about His work!
 - We encourage Him to strap on his fighting implements and go out to slay His enemies!
 - Psalm 45:3-5: Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, With Your glory and Your majesty. And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness; and Your right hand shall teach You awesome

things. Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies; The peoples fall under You.

- As the bride of King Jesus, we are cheering Him along in His work!
 - He is our husband and we greatly respect the work He does as He goes forth to take dominion of the earth for the LORD.
 - We are supportive of His work and we take delight in being His helper.
- 2. Just look at the great work that He is doing here!
 - He is riding for truth, humility, and righteousness!
 - a. Truth—in a world that is full of lies!
 - In a world that is full of God's image bearers who constantly tell lies about him by the way they live!
 - Every human being is made in God's image, but we are fallen, distorted, twisted images who misrepresent Him...
 - a picture that tells lies about the one we portray.
 - The sons of this world even deny their creator and pretend that He is not, or at least that He not what He is.
 - If they worship him at all, they worship him according to their own imaginations and not according to truth.
 - And we lie about ourselves and the depth of our own sin...
 - And we lie about God's law and pervert his commandments.
 - But King Jesus rides forth for the truth—to shine forth that light and set the record straight!

TRANS> And besides truth,

- b. He rides forth for humility—in a world that is full of pride!
 - Here is a world that is full of self-sufficiency...
 - A world that fell in pursuit of a promise that we would be like God.
 - A world that has forgotten that everything we have comes from God and that without Him we can do nothing.
 - A world that has set man up as the judge instead of submitting to the LORD as the only judge.
 - He goes forth for the sake of humility—to bring down the pride of men and to exalt the Father.

TRANS> And besides truth and humility,

- c. He rides forth for the cause of righteousness—in a world that is full of sin...

- A world where parents abuse their own children...
 - A world where fathers yell at the children they are supposed to protect and nurture and then never ask their forgiveness...
 - A world where husbands who are supposed to care for their wives and lay down their lives for them instead batter them and deal harshly with them...
 - and where instead of taking responsibility, they abandon their wives and children—all to pursue their own selfish desires.
- A world where the weak are trampled and where tradesmen cut corners in their work and tell lies and where financial managers embezzle funds and children rebel against authority and gossip about their own parents.
 - Jesus goes forth for righteousness to establish a kingdom of righteousness that will last forever.

TRANS> What an excellent thing it is to see Him strap on His sword to go to battle!

- If He did not ride forth, there would be no truth, humility, or righteousness in the earth!
 - He rides forth from heaven at His Father's command, and how glad we ought to be!

3. And we are so sure of His success because He is, as it says here...

- the Mighty One who rides in glory of majesty—
 - He is the One who rides prosperously!
 - As it says in verse 5, His arrows are sharp in the heart of His enemies so that His enemies fall under Him!
 - He never fails to accomplish His purpose—His word does not return void.

a. Is this not what we see as our LORD rides forth with the sword of the gospel?

- The gospel is always victorious!
 - To those who believe, it is a savour of life unto life...
 - To those who believe not, it is a savour of death unto death...
 - But it always prospers—it always accomplishes its work!
 - How excited we are when the Word goes forth to slay all of God's enemies!

b. See how he slays His enemies!

- 1) We are all enemies of truth, humility and righteousness by nature...
 - And then the sharp sword of Jesus comes and pierces to our hearts...
 - And see what we are!

- We see our condemnation—that we have offended a holy God and that He is going to destroy us—that all our misery is because we have offended Him...
 - And we see our vile corruption—that we have been terribly wrong—that our conduct is inexcusable...
 - As soon as the sword pierces us, we see all that we have ever done and we loath ourselves.
 - It is such a powerful word!
- 2) And for some, this piercing makes us willing subjects who obey His call to repent and believe...
- a) The same sword that brings us down to the dust also lifts us up to live again!
- It tells us of our dear LORD Jesus who came into this world to redeem us!
 - The sword of the word tells us how He humbled Himself and became a man and then went to the cross to bear all our sins—to bear the very curse of God for us!
 - And we are totally overcome when we understand...
 - We give ourselves up to the gospel and we fall beneath the feet of Jesus as His admiring, grateful, worshippers...
 - never to be the same again!
- b) Just think of all the mighty men who have been brought down by this sword!
- The raging Saul (or Paul) of Tarsus on his way to rid the world of Christians...broken, humbled, and renewed!
 - The arrogant Augustine in all his intellectual pride brought to his knees in humble repentance and made a servant in God's house.
 - There is the drunk on the street, a slave to his bottle and an enemy of God—brought down by this sword to serve the LORD.
 - There is the nice guy who thinks he has no need of God, awakened by this sword to fall to his knees and confess his sins.
 - And all of us who have been subdued by the gospel of grace who are part of this church—and the church around the world!

TRANS> But there is another way He slays His enemies with the sword of the word!

- 3) For some the piercing of His sword is only a prelude to damnation.

- The piercings of the word in this life are an irritation that strikes terror, but so as to harden them rather than to bring repentance.
 - Such persons resist the call of God to come to Jesus for salvation.
 - And on the day of judgement, the sword will lay them bare so that they will be fully convinced of their sin and guilt,
 - but it will be as one standing trial upon the sentence of condemnation will be passed, sealed, and then carried out.
 - What conviction and guilt will be theirs!
 - What despair!
 - What terror!
 - Do not resist the piercings of the sword.
 - Let them rather lead you to Christ for mercy before it is too late.
 - What reason do you have to resist His gracious call?
- 4) Jesus will reign and ride forth with His sword until all His enemies have been brought under His feet!
- The enemies of God will not continue to rage against Him.
 - The LORD Jesus will slay them all with the sword of His mouth...
 - some to everlasting life, some to everlasting destruction...
 - But not one will remain.
 - Not one will escape His sword until at last the world is full of nothing but truth, humility and righteousness!
 - It will be a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells.
 - Ride on King Jesus!
 - Grid on your sword and in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility and righteousness!

TRANS> This is king Jesus!

- The ideal groom—a man with a cause—a man who rides forth in the earth to take dominion!
 - But what does this have to do with the ordinary man who wishes to get married?
- B. A man is not ready to marry unless he is also a man with a cause—a man who rides forth for truth, humility and righteousness!
1. Every man is to live in God's calling.

- Even before the fall, it was given to every man to take dominion of the earth and to subdue it.
- No man is meant to be idle.
 - He was to go out and serve his neighbour in the earth to the glory of God...
 - He was to plant gardens for beauty and joy, providing food...
 - He was to do science, naming the animals and exploring the glories of God's creation.
 - He was to develop art and music for the blessing of himself and his neighbours.
 - He was to build things and design things and organise things, all for the glory and praise of God.

TRANS> And we are still to do this...

2. Only now that we live in a *fallen* world, we must go forth to restore what is fallen...
 - We must ride forth in our particular calling for truth, humility, and righteousness.
 - Because in this fallen world,
 - Instead of planting and exploring and studying and playing music and doing art and building and designing for the good of our neighbour and the glory of God,
 - we do these things for pride and to exploit our neighbours.
 - When God redeems a man, that man is changed...transformed by the grace of Christ...
 - so that now He goes forth for the sake of truth, humility and righteousness.
 - He goes forth under the banner of King Jesus, promoting His cause in the earth—as a farmer, as a doctor, as a tradesman, as a salesman... whatever he does...
 - He goes forth with the sword of the gospel to fulfill his calling in obedience to the LORD.
 - He does all His work for the glory of God and the good of His neighbour.
3. And I say to you women who are not married...
 - If there is a man who does not have this mission—a man who has no calling from the Lord—a man who is aimless—a man who has no interest in impacting the world for Christ...

- You would do best to avoid that man!
- He is not ready to take a wife because he has not begun to live in God's calling.
 - The man you marry needs to be a man who rides forth for King Jesus!
 - I do not mean that he must be a full time evangelist...
 - but I mean that he must be all about the pursuit of truth, humility, and righteousness in his calling...
 - a man in pursuit of the truth—to know the word, to speak the word, and to live the word.
 - a man seeking to go forth in the strength of God as a servant of God...in humility, a praying man who trusts not in his own wisdom or power...a worshipping man who knows and wants others to know that everything we have comes from Jesus Christ.
 - a man in pursuit of righteousness—yearning to live in obedience to the will of God through Jesus Christ and to lead others to do the same—in whatever vocation He may be engaged in.
- If he is not riding forth for truth, humility and righteousness, in the earth,
 - you have no reason to think that he will pursue these things in the home either...
 - And if He is not a man who is going to lead his home for truth, humility and righteousness, why would you want to marry him?
- And men, if you are not doing this, it is time for you to get started...
 - Come to the Lord, confess your sin to Him, and look to Him for grace to begin today...
 - Perhaps you are already married but you have no zeal for these things...
 - You are an unfit husband—
 - Don't kid yourself that you are okay because you are nice...
 - You need to be a man with a mission—
 - You need to be a man with a sword who rides forth for truth, humility and righteousness by the grace of God.

TRANS> So we have seen that the ideal bridegroom is a man who is a blessed man and that he is a man who takes dominion.

- Now, thirdly, I want you to see that:

III. The ideal bridegroom is a man who will establish a blessed household.

- A. In a sense, we have just seen this—
- for the man who pursues truth, humility and righteousness in the earth will certainly pursue it in His home—won't he?
1. Sadly, this is not always the case.
 - There are those men who neglect their own house in the pursuit their calling in the world...
 - just as there are men who neglect their calling in the world in pursuit of their own house.
 - This could be said of King David...
 - As a King of Israel,
 - he was exceptional, seeking the advance of truth, humility and righteousness...
 - but as a father, he was a failure—such that his house came to bring great dishonour upon the LORD.
 2. We have seen that the ideal bridegroom is a man who is a warlord,
 - but we must see that he is also a man who is concerned about his own house.
 - He is not just a fighting machine outside the home, but he is a man who fights because he has a way of life to preserve...
 - He has a glorious house that he is building for the glory of God.
 - His house is his kingdom in which righteousness dwells.
 - In other words, he is not just a battler, he is also a builder.
 3. In many ways, this is the place where the church has most often failed...
 - We do well under persecution, fighting to against the opposition to bring down our enemies and advance the cause of Christ...
 - but when the Kingdom is established in our land, instead of building our house for the glory of God, we become idle and grow corrupt.
 - This has been the cycle as the gospel advances around the world...
 - First there is faithfulness under persecution...
 - Then there is dominion and victory...
 - Then there is slackness and decay.
 - Instead, when the gospel is established, we must learn to go forth to build a house that is filled with joy, that advances in love and service.
 - The ideal groom is concerned for the battle, but he is also concerned for building his house for the glory of God.

B. Here are four characteristics he pursues for His house...

1. That it be a lasting house

a. You see in verse 6 that we praise our Lord Jesus, our bridegroom, because His throne is forever and ever!

- Of course in its fullest sense this can only be said of Him!
 - He alone is God and He alone establishes His throne forever.
 - Other kings have their houses established for a time, but then they are brought down by enemies or by collapse from within.
 - But we can be sure, as His bride that His house will not fail—the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.
 - Yes, even death cannot destroy His house!

b. And I say, as much as lies in us, we must also seek to have a house that endures...

- And by the grace of God, our house will endure.
- A man is to care about the future of his house, and so he is to see that his children are disciplined and trained up by him to carry on in service to Christ...
 - He is to send them forth as arrows in his cause, establishing their own homes from generation to generation for the glory of God.
 - If a man does not pray for His great-grandchildren, he needs to obtain this focus.

c. But not only that, he must see that what is done in his home is that which, in the Lord, will last to eternity.

- Even if he is unable to have any children, he can still see that he and his wife do work for the glory of Christ that will endure.
 - Together they can serve in the kingdom of God so that their house will be rewarded in eternity... where even a cup of cold water that has been given in Christ's name will be rewarded.
 - So also a man who is not married ought to have this focus...
 - It is his to serve all the more in the larger community for the glory of God.

TRANS> He is to pursue that his house be a lasting house...

- That is the first thing...
- Secondly, he is to seek...

2. That his house might be a righteous house

- a. You see at the end of verse 6 that Jesus is said to rule His house with a sceptre of righteousness...
 - and we praise Him as the one who loves righteousness and hates wickedness!
 - I mentioned to you last week that this is such a rare thing!
 - That someone actually *loves* righteousness—that it is their joy and delight...
 - And that they actually *hate* wickedness—we are so often attracted to wickedness—so far are we from *hating* it.
 - But by the grace of God, this is what you are to aim for as the leader of your house.

- b. There are so many false substitutes for this...
 - There is the love of honour and the hatred of losing face that keeps us from confessing our sins—
 - and that causes us to discipline our children out of embarrassment instead of because of a love for righteousness...
 - I will also keep quiet about my faith so that I won't be ridiculed or thought foolish.

 - There is the love of worldly success in money or in education and the hatred of a failure to succeed—
 - and this causes us to be diligent to see that our children excel in school and in sports or whatever with little regard for godliness.
 - We cheer them on more for good grades or for winning the competition than we do for loving their brothers and sisters.
 - I will disregard the Lord's Day because I made the ball team...

 - There is a love for popularity and a hatred for loneliness...
 - and this causes us to emphasise having lots of friends rather than having godliness—so that godliness is compromised to hold onto friends.
 - I will forsake modesty so that I will fit in...

 - Honour and wealth and friendship are not in themselves wrong,
 - but the thing that we must keep before us as our supreme goal is a love for righteousness and a hatred of wickedness...
 - When this is done, honour and wealth and friendship will indeed be sought, but in ways that honour the Lord and bless others.

- c. What will the man do who loves righteousness in the government of his home?
- The first thing he will do is lead his family to the only fountain of righteousness... Jesus Christ.
 - He will instruct them in the way of righteousness from God's word each day...
 - He will lead them to praise the LORD for their salvation and will take them to a faithful church each Lord's Day to worship God and to hear the gospel.
 - He will talk to them about what it means to love God in all of life, and He will set the example.
 - When they sin, he will look to Christ for mercy and teach them to do the same,
 - and he will lead them to pray and ask Christ to help them to love as He loves and to speak as He speaks.
 - And He will continually pray, as Job did, that God will forgive them and will work in their lives to make them holy.
 - And when he sees them struggling, he will go to speak to them.
 - He will not ignore them and he will not chide them, but he will come to help them and to counsel them.
 - And if he needs to, he will chasten them to bring them to repentance.
 - And when there are quarrels among them, he will not pretend he does not see them, but he will lead them to pursue reconciliation.
 - He will teach them to always seek forgiveness when they have done wrong by confessing their sins to one another, and to always grant forgiveness so that no grudges will be held.
 - And He will be the first to confess his own sins when he has transgressed.
 - He will lead them to be kind to others...
 - to extend hospitality, to reach out to the needy, to the lonely, to the sick, to the dying.
 - He will train them to be honest and hard working for the glory of the LORD.
 - He will educate His sons and daughters to prepare them for their calling that they may speak with the enemies in the gate.

- He will be kind to His wife, not harsh or demanding, but full of gratitude and gentleness,
 - and he will not allow his children to speak ill of her or to disregard her words.
- He will be involved because he loves righteousness and hates wickedness.
 - He will learn from Jesus who sets the example of what it means to be involved—of pouring out His life to do what was in His power to make us righteous.
 - He will yearn to see his household loving God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, and avoiding evil.

TRANS> So we have seen that the ideal bridegroom will seek to have:

- a house that is lasting...
- a house that is righteous...
- and now thirdly,

3. A house that is a joyful, Spirit-filled house.

- a. Look at how Christ is described in verse 7 and 8 as anointed with precious, fragrant oil!
 - Ps 45:7-8: Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions. All Your garments are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia, Out of the ivory palaces, by which they have made You glad.
 - This is a beautiful description of Christ, the anointed one, using the imagery of an oriental king who not only was himself anointed but also anointed his guests with the oil of gladness.
 - Jesus, as you know, is called “the anointed one” because He is indeed anointed with the oil of gladness more than His companions!
 - And I tell you, He is anointed with the Holy Spirit!
 - We read in John 3:34-35 today that Jesus was given the Spirit without measure... in all fullness:
 - John 3:34-35: For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.
 - And what does Jesus, the anointed one, do with His Spirit?
 - He pours out His Spirit on the church so that we are all anointed with the Spirit through Him.
 - The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of joy because He is the one who unites us to God, and is Himself God dwelling within us.
 - He is sent to us to abide with us forever...

- to open our understanding...
 - to make us holy...
 - to make us sure of the Father's love...
 - to comfort us in all of God's promises...
 - to give us gifts by which we may serve and bless each other.
- b. And the godly husband will look to have the sweet savour of the Spirit in his home...
- so that His home is a pleasant place—a happy place—a place of blessing and love.
 - He will pray for the filling of the Spirit and He will look to see that the Spirit is not grieved in the home...
 - That strife and pornography and greed and anger and envy and drunkenness do not fill His home,
 - for these are contrary to the Spirit...
 - but rather the Spirit and His fruits of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
 - There are men who claim to be interested in righteousness,
 - but the righteousness they seek is far from the fullness of the Spirit.
 - They are full of bitterness and strife in the so-called cause of righteousness...
 - they are sanctified by vinegar and they seek to sanctify their family by harshness and impatience, all in the name of a zeal for purity.
 - They drive out all beauty and personal affection and tenderness and loving regard in their home.
 - Their motto is “as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord,” but they say it with a scowl on their face and anger in their tone.
 - Their children grow up to hate the Lord and these angry men wonder why.
 - The reason is that their home is devoid of the Holy Spirit.
 - Instead of being scented with joy, it reeks of bitterness and strife.

TRANS> So the ideal bridegroom will be the man who seeks to have

- a house that is lasting
- a house that is righteous
- a house that is filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit
- and finally,

4. A house that is influential
 - a. We are told in verse 9 that king's daughters are among the honourable women of the bridegroom's house.
 - And at His right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
 - These are the ones from the different nations that He has brought into subjection to Himself.
 - They come in order to serve Him and to bring their treasures to Him.
 - Indeed, these are the nations that have come to make up His bride—the ones that He has conquered and who come willingly because they have been rescued from ignorance, pride, and wickedness,
 - and brought into truth, humility, and righteousness.
 - It is a house that is full of glad subjects from all the nations of the world!
 - He has rescued them and brought them into his father's house, his mother being the church!
 - And as we have seen, this is a house that lasts forever...
 - It is a house the He rules with a righteous sceptre...
 - It is a house that is full of the joy of the Holy Spirit...
 - b. Gentlemen, when you have a house in imitation of this house,
 - you will beget other houses in the kingdom of God that will imitate your house.
 - You will have an influential house that will be an example to others.
 - The savour of Christ is contagious.
 - When others see the hope and the righteousness and the joy in your house,
 - they will want to have what you have and they will imitate you as you follow Christ.
 - God made us to learn from each other and to minister to each other.
 - He has placed us together in the church so that we might learn from one another.
 - We need each other as we endeavour to grow together in the grace of God.

Conclusion:

And so my brothers and sisters, in our dear Lord Jesus we see the ideal bridegroom.

- Everyone of you is called to enter into His house through faith.
 - He calls all men and women everywhere to repent and to come to Him for the forgiveness of sin, and to be His bride, to live in His house forever and ever!
- What a house it is with Him as our husband!
 - He is the fairest of ten thousand—full of gracious words—blessed of God...
 - He is the mighty God who will bring all His enemies under His feet until He has established a kingdom of perfect righteousness...
 - And His house will be a place of perfect love and happiness where we will all love as He loves and serve as He serves in the joyful fellowship of Him and His Father and the Holy Spirit and each other.

There is no cause of discontentment.

- You can have this bridegroom as your bridegroom if you will but obey His call and come to Him for life.
 - And then if you are a man,
 - you can grow in your love for Him and seek to become more and more like Him in your own house...
 - And if you are a woman,
 - rather than looking at the short-comings of your husband,
 - you can rejoice in the perfection of Christ and seek to honour Him in the respectful way you respond to your husband...
 - and you can pray that he would become more like Christ.
 - And as children, you can do the same—
 - Do not be bitter against your imperfect father and mother, but rejoice in the perfections of Christ and love your parents and honour them for His sake.
 - And you who are not married—remember that in Christ you are married—
 - You are married to Him—the perfect bridegroom.
 - And you can focus your attention all the more on that because you do not have the distractions of a husband or wife in this world.
 - You can focus all the more on your union with Him and live out the fullness of your life in His house among His people.
- What an excellent husband we have!
 - Now let you who are husbands imitate Him.