

# The Ideal Bride

Psalm 45:10-15

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## Introduction

For the last couple of weeks, we have been looking at Psalm 45, the wedding Psalm.

- This Psalm presents our Lord Jesus Christ under the imagery of a royal bridegroom, taking His elect people as His bride.
- The Psalm was likely written on the occasion of the marriage of King Joram of Judah to Athaliah, the daughter of King Ahab and Jezebel of Israel.
  - Israel had been at odds with Judah for several generations.
  - So when this marriage took place, there were high hopes among the godly that the Kingdom of God would be advanced.
  - Little did the people know at that time what ungodly wretches Joram and Athaliah would prove to be.
  - The Psalm assumes the Joram will act the part of Davidic King and that Athaliah would leave her past to unite with him in seeking the kingdom of God.
    - This certainly did not prove to be the case as they both did all they could to import the worship of pagan gods and were blood thirsty tyrants.
- But their failings can take nothing away from the greater King that this Psalm speaks of—the Messiah—
  - even our dear Lord Jesus Christ who came from heaven to take us as His bride.
  - This Psalm of praise was written with a clear sight of the promises to David's house and of the fulfilment of those promises in Jesus Christ.
    - Even the ancient Jewish expositors saw this as Messianic.
    - Even if this was written on the occasion of Solomon's marriage, it is clear that it looks beyond Solomon to one who is far greater...
      - for it says of him, "Your throne O God is forever and ever."
      - The Epistle to the Hebrews quotes this of Jesus Christ.
  - And when we see and sing of His glory and the glory of the relationship He has with us that is so beautifully set forth in this Psalm,
    - we have great reason to rejoice!
    - Just to think that the Son of God has taken sinners like us to be His very own bride and to live in His father's house forever.

- But there is also another way we can benefit from this Psalm.
  - In seeing the ideal relationship of Christ our Bridegroom with His Bride the church who is perfected by Him,
    - we are able to see a pattern of what our marriages in this world ought to be like.
    - In Ephesians 5, the Lord expressly calls husbands to imitate Christ, and to love their wives even as He loved the church and gave Himself for her...
      - And wives are called to submit to their husbands even as the Church submits to Christ.
        - It is a very excellent pattern that if followed will not only bring glory to God, shining forth as a picture of His relationship with us,
          - but also great happiness to husbands and wives in their marriages.
    - As I mentioned to Mike at the wedding yesterday, even though you will not attain to this standard as a husband, for none of us do,
      - it is far better that you at least have a standard to pursue by the grace of God.
      - As you keep this standard before you, you have something that will keep you humble and keep you on your knees to seek God's help.

Last week, we looked at the ideal bridegroom as he is presented in this Psalm...

- We saw first of all that he is a blessed man—
  - And because He is blessed by God, He has the grace of God at work in him and in his household,
    - And because God's grace is at work in Him,
      - He is more excellent in virtue and in character than men who do not have God's grace...
    - And He has grace upon His lips so that He can speak helpful words and edifying words instead of destructive words to His wife.
      - A woman is very foolish if she marries a man who does not have the evidence of God's blessing in his life—God's favour and grace at work in Him. Such a man has no resources to bless His household.
- We saw secondly that the ideal bridegroom is a man with a mission—
  - He is a man who takes dominion in the earth for Jesus Christ.
    - He is a man who has a sense of calling from God so that he lives as a priest to God in this fallen world,
      - offering up his daily labour as a sacrifice to God.

- He rides forth as a mighty warrior for truth, humility, and righteousness.
    - Truth in a world that is given over to lies and deception...
    - Humility in a world that is full of pride and self-sufficiency and does not worship God and trust in His Son.
    - Righteousness is a world that is full of sin, injustice and wickedness.
      - The ideal bridegroom rides forth into the world to transform the world for the glory of God.
        - And we saw that there is a certain excitement that we have as we sing this Psalm and think of our Lord Jesus taking up His mighty sword to go forth and conquer the nations for righteousness.
        - He will reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.
          - His word will not return void.
- We saw thirdly that the ideal bridegroom is a man who establishes a blessed household.
  - He is not like so many who are only concerned for pursuing truth, humility and righteousness out in the world—but who ignore their own families.
    - This has been such a problem in all the ages of the church...
      - But the ideal bridegroom gives himself for his wife and family.
  - He seeks to have a house that is...
    - a lasting house (a throne established forever)
    - a righteous house (for he loves righteousness and hates wickedness)
    - a joyful, Spirit-filled house (full of love and kindness)
    - and an influential house (that is often imitated because of its beauty).

Jesus Christ is the ideal bridegroom...

- There is none like Him who gives Himself with such love, such zeal, for his bride.
  - We are so privileged to have Him.
  - It is for us to totally give ourselves to Him and submit to Him in the same way He submits to His Father in heaven.
    - And for you married men,
      - your submission to Christ means (among other things) that you will endeavour,
        - by the grace of God,
        - to imitate Him as a husband.
- I hope you see what I am saying.
  - Your wife is not the only one that is called to submit.
  - Wives are called to submit to their own husbands,
    - but you husbands are called to submit to Christ.

- You are to set the example of submission for your wife in the way you submit to Christ.

So today as we move on to look at the ideal bride,

- I am speaking to all of you because all of you are called into union with Christ.
  - You are called to come to Him and submit to Him as your Lord and husband who gives Himself to you as the ideal husband.
- And I am happy to tell you today that I can speak to you who have come to Christ as the ideal wife...
  - Not because you *are* the ideal wife today, but because you *will be* when your gracious husband Jesus has completed His work in you.
    - The day will come when you who struggle to respond to Him and to obey Him will no longer struggle...
      - You will give yourself to your husband joyful devotion forever and your joy will be total and complete!
      - He will present you without spot or blemish before the glory of His Father.
  - As we consider the ideal bride, let us yearn to be what she is in our relationship with Christ!
    - And if you are a woman who is married,
      - part of being that ideal bride for Christ is that you should be an ideal bride for your husband.

Let us now turn to our text where we see first of all that...

## **I. The ideal bride is totally devoted to her husband as her lord.**

A. She is called to consider and give attention to her calling as a wife.

1. You see what it says in verse 10?
  - "Listen, O daughter, Consider and incline your ear."
  - These words all have to do with submissive hearing...responsive hearing.
    - We say this to a child when we want them to pay attention...
      - We say, "listen, consider what you are doing, incline your ear."
  - A bride needs to realise what she is doing!
    - She is becoming a wife!
    - She is becoming one flesh with a husband!
    - She is entering into a new household and new relationship.
2. Too many women enter into marriage in the wrong way.

- a. They suppose that now that they have got their man, they can change him to be what they want him to be.
  - But it doesn't work that way.
  - You are entering into *his* household.
    - If you do not like the way he lives and the direction he is going, you never should have married him.
    - You are placing yourself into his household and bringing yourself under his leadership.
      - That is why I told you last week that you are a fool if you marry a man who does not show evidence of God's blessing and grace in his life.
      - If he is not pursuing the kingdom of God and His righteousness, don't think any of that will change when you marry him!
        - He may seem so confident or so charming, or so kind or so able to understand you and relate to you,
          - or even to be the first person who ever really cared for you,
          - but you must not let any of this blind you to his ungodliness
- b. In coming to marry a man, you much realise that you are becoming a part of his household...
  - You are there to help him in his calling.
    - So if you choose to marry a bank robber, you are joining his cause.
    - If you choose to marry a man who is immoral—perhaps he is immoral with you and without repentance,
      - you are joining an immoral house and you have no reason to think he is going to be devoted to you—
      - you are there as his accomplice in immorality.
  - But if you choose to marry a man who is in pursuit of truth, humility and righteousness,
    - then the house you join cause with is a house that is seeking the Lord's kingdom and righteousness!
    - You become his helper in that!
- c. Now you men need to think about this too...
  - You need to realise that that dear girl that you marry is brought into your house—whatever that house may be!
    - You do not only act for yourself, but you act for your household.
      - If you are foolish and selfish with your money and do not work to provide, you drag her into that...

- If you are immoral and perverted, you have dragged that dear girl into a perverted household!
  - If you are pursuing the kingdom of God and His righteousness, then you bring her into that blessing.
    - You will answer to God not only for yourself, but also for your household.
      - Even if you abandon her and do not consider yourself to be the head of your house, you still are...
        - you drag her into a household that abandons and rejects those who are supposed to be loved and cherished.
  - Many people do not like the fact that God made the world like this, but he did.
    - When Adam sinned, all of his descendents sinned in him and fell with him.
    - Of course the good news is that when Jesus died, all His seed die with Him and are raised with Him to new life.
3. But it is the assumption in Psalm 45, that the bride is marrying a husband who is indeed in pursuit of truth, humility and righteousness.
- And such indeed is the house of Jesus Christ!
- a. Oh people of God,
- Listen! Consider! Incline your ear!
    - What a glorious household you have entered when you become the bride of Jesus Christ!
  - This is a household that is about always doing what pleases God.
    - This is a household that is about loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength!
    - This is household that is characterised by leaving everything for the one who is in need...
      - About pouring out your life for the good and happiness of others.
      - About being willing to suffer in order to do them good.
      - About loving them even when they are unlovely and rebellious.
- b. You are called to submit to our dear Lord Jesus Christ!
- You are called to conform yourself to His marvellous ways.
    - You are called to obey Him as He leads you in the loving ways of His house.
      - to give yourself without complaining for others.

- to have the mind of Christ so that you consider the interests of others as more important than your own interests.
  - so that you wash the feet of the saints and refresh them.
  - so that you love righteousness and hate sin...
  - so that you speak words of encouragement instead of words that tear down...
    - so that you even study how you will answer so you will know what to say and know how to encourage others.
- c. What kind of woman would it be that would come into such a household with a rebellious, un-submissive spirit?
- What hardness, what wickedness!
    - Yet, that is the way of many who come into the house of God—who are baptised and added to the church...
  - They come in, but they do not have a new heart.
    - They come in, but they are not clothed with the righteousness of Christ.
    - They have never really been gripped with their sin and do not know what it is to seek Christ for forgiveness.
    - They have no desire to conform to the ways of their Lord.
      - They are in the house, in a formal way, but they have not considered what this house is.
      - They will be cast out at the last day and their Lord will say to them those dreadful words,
        - “Depart from Me, for I never knew you, you that work iniquity!”

B. The call here is to stop and consider what you must be as a bride in this house!

1. You are to leave your old ways behind and embrace his ways now!

- As verse 10 goes on to say,
  - “Forget your own people also and your father’s house.”
- a. These words are addressed to Athaliah who was from a rebellious house.
  - Her mother was (probably) Jezebel, and Jezebel’s father was the priest of Tyre, a pagan priest involved in wickedness and perversity.
    - She was to leave the idolatry and the scheming and the wickedness of the house of Ahab and Jezebel and to conform to David’s house.
  - Her husband Joram was on the throne of David,
    - David, to whom the Lord had established His covenant mercy and had promised to raise up a kingdom of righteousness by him.

- Of course these words did not do Athaliah any good...
  - She did not listen
    - She did not consider the house that she was entering.
    - She did not incline her ear to wisdom.
  - Instead, she brought all of her old ways into this house and would have had the house of David destroyed and all the promises nullified if she could.
  - You will remember that she is the one who killed her own grandsons so she could sit on the throne without challenge...
    - The spirit in her was that which would push Christ off the throne and put herself there instead.
    - She became, perhaps, the worst of the queens of Israel!
  
- b. Christian, these words are addressed to you who have come to Christ and have entered into His house...
  - You are to forget your own people and the ways of your father Adam...and even of your father the Devil...
    - and even your own father if he is an ungodly man.
  - At your baptism, you are entering the house and family of God and you are to be a pure and holy bride for your Lord.
    - You are to give yourself to Him and to His service!
    - You are to conform to His ways.
    - You are to give earnest attention to the ways of His house, to love His law, and to meditate on it day and night...
      - His Word is to be your food night and day.
        - You are to walk according to His will.
          - And if you have not done this, you need not get baptised again—you need rather keep the covenant that was made at your baptism.
  
- c. You are called to worship your husband because He is your Lord.
  - Do you see that in verse 3?
    - The word worship means “bow down.”
  - You are to submit to Him as your Lord and master, seeking to please Him and to delight Him in all your ways.
    - It should be noted that the word worship can, and often is used, to refer to the homage that is paid to a human master—



- as when Joseph’s brothers bowed down to him, first in his dream, and then in reality.
    - not ascribing deity to him, but showing respect to him.
  - Because the word is flexible like this,
    - It can be used of a wife submitting to her husband as well as to the church in a much fuller way worshipping our Lord Jesus.
2. And do you see the promise if you do submit to Him—if you leave your own ways to enter into His house?
- a. Verse 11 says that the king will greatly desire your beauty!
- It says, “so the king will greatly desire your beauty”
    - If you forget your father’s house and leave your old ways and conform to Christ,
      - you will be beautiful in His house.
      - You will become like Him!
        - Having the same affection, the same love, the same holiness, the same purity.
        - You will be fruitful with the beautiful fruits of the Spirit.
- b. And King Jesus will see you and He will say,
- “How beautiful you are! How lovely you are!”
  - And you will say, “Me?”
    - because you will still see all the ways you come short...
      - But He will see your growth and your progress and what He is doing in you and what He will complete in you.
      - He sees it all in its first risings and He knows that it will grow up in all its beauty and fullness—
        - that you will grow up in all beauty and fullness for Him.
    - Just as parents are not discouraged when their little child takes his first step even though the child falls down...
      - No parent says,
        - “What’s wrong with this kid—he takes one step and falls...”
        - No, they know that that first step is only the beginning of great things to come.
  - And let me say to you parents...
    - The main thing you want from your children is their hearts!

- You want hearts that are in pursuit of Christ with you!
- If the heart is right—if they are earnest about seeking Christ and His righteousness...
  - all the little steps they make are only the beginning of what they will be.
  - Don't exacerbate them by offering no encouragement...
    - Keep pointing them to the dear Saviour and keep pursuing His kingdom and His grace with them.
    - He's at work in them and He will do all that He has promised.
- If your heart is for Jesus...
  - If you want to be like Him, to conform to His house and His ways...
    - do not be discouraged at your failings...
    - He is with you as your husband and He will lead you into the beauty that He desires...
      - He sees the first steps that will become confident walking and then running!
        - And He delights in it all!
  - How good it is to know that He greatly desires the beauty you have as you endeavour to leave the old ways and to put on the new.

C. But you will say to me—

- “But how does all this apply to our earthly marriages?”
- 1. How is it that Ephesians calls a wife to submit to her husband even as the church submits to Christ?
  - and even to respect him as she respects Christ when he is not like Christ?
  - A woman will say,
    - “My husband is not like Christ! If he were like Christ, I would submit to him, but look at him...”
  - And I will say to you,
    - “No, you wouldn't submit to your husband if he were like Christ...
      - because Christ is like Himself and He calls you to submit to that husband—to your husband.
      - If you would submit to your husband if he were like Christ, how is it that you do not submit to Christ when He tells you to submit to your husband?

- Don't misunderstand me...
    - I don't mean to suggest that you are to disobey God if your husband asks you to do evil...
      - But come now...
        - That is rarely the problem with a disobedient wife.
        - As Doug Wilson puts it,
          - "No human authority is absolute, and this includes the authority of the husband. But it is real, nonetheless, and most Christian wives who disobey (or disregard) their husbands are not in the category of 'obeying God rather than men.'"
2. Did you not hear the scripture reading from 1 Peter 3?
- a. It was about a husband that does not obey the Word of God.
    - And what did it say?
      - Did it say, "You do not have to submit to a man like that."
  - b. No! It told you to submit to a husband like that too...
    - 1 Peter 3:1-2: "Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied* by fear.
- 1) You say that you want to have a godly household.
- But your husband is not leading in godliness...
    - So you cannot submit to him.
    - But you are still to live in the way that a wife is called to live, no matter what he does.
    - At least on your part, the household can be godly...
      - At least there will *some* godliness in the household.
  - And when you do this, you create a vacuum as it were...
    - He is not fulfilling his place,
      - but you are to leave that place open for him to fill rather than trying to fill it yourself.
    - You are to submit to him as a wife would submit to a husband that was looking out for her best interests...
      - That will have a way of drawing him into that place...
        - You will create a vacuum by your submission to him.
        - If you try to take over, you will put yourself in a wrestling match with him and you will not win...

- But if you submit to him, you are doing what you can, at least, to draw him into his place...
  - You are leaving that place open for him to fill.
  - You submit to him as if he were looking out for your interests except in those matters that would involve you in disobedience to the Lord.
- You say,
    - But how can I do that?
      - It would be easy to submit to him if he really were looking out for my best interests, but he is not, so how can I do that?
    - You can do that for Christ—
      - Christ *is* looking out for your best interests and He tells you to submit to your husband.

2) You say,

- “But I am afraid of what will happen if I relinquish control to him!”
- That is an interesting comment...
  - Because in 1 Peter 3, Peter goes on to admonish you to adorn yourself with a “meek and quiet spirit that is precious in the sight of God”...
  - What is this meek and quiet spirit?
    - It is a spirit that is not all anxious—
      - a spirit that is not trying to take over because you are afraid of what will happen if you don’t.
    - It is *that* kind of quietness that is in view!
      - Not someone who never talks...
        - but someone who is not all fearful and restless and trying to take over.
- Sarah is presented as an example.
  - She followed Abraham all over the place, calling him her Lord.
    - Part of his leading was his following of the Lord, but part of it was when he was afraid and did foolish things.
    - She followed him when he went to land that God commanded him, but she also followed him when he went to Egypt...
      - and she was nearly taken into Pharaoh’s harem.
      - *That* was a meek and quiet spirit!

- It is a spirit that does what God calls you to do and leaves the rest to Him!
  - This meek and quiet spirit is what you are to adorn yourself with.
    - You are to pay more attention to this than to your clothes and your hair.
    - Clothes and hair are important,
      - but if you want to draw in your husband, this meek and quiet spirit is more important.
      - Nothing will do more to drive a man away from responsible service than a fearful nattering wife who is always fretting and trying to take over.
        - Or who is always trying to push him to be responsible the way his fussy school teacher and his mother did...
          - He has had lot's practice resisting woman like that.
  - Such a wife is like a continual dripping to him...
    - An ungodly man will find somewhere to hang out and it won't be with a nattering wife...
      - It may be with the remote control...
      - It may be with his work...
      - It may be with another woman...
        - but it won't be with you...
          - to his shame, mind you—but that will be the way it is.
- 3) Listen carefully to the actual words of scripture... God's word...and what it says about adorning yourself with a meek and quite spirit:
- 1 Peter 3:5-6: For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror."

TRANS> Do you see? This section began with a call for you to listen...

- to consider what you are called to be as a bride...
  - You have to think about your calling and what it means to be a wife.
  - This is not something that comes naturally...
    - it comes when you are deliberate about trusting the Lord so that you might live in your calling.
- And now let us move on the second characteristic of the ideal bride...
  - We have seen that she is devoted to her husband as her Lord...

- Now I want you to see secondly that...

## II. The ideal bride is her husband's glory.

A. She is full of glory before she even comes into her husband's house.

- In other words, she has a glory that she brings in
    - Look at verse 13.
      - Ps 45:13: "The royal daughter *is* all glorious within *the palace*; Her clothing *is* woven with gold."
1. Joram was marrying a king's daughter, Athaliah.
    - And she was all glorious within her father's palace, even the ivory palace of King Ahab.
      - The word *within* that is used here is always used to refer to parts of buildings—an inner part.
      - It is not saying here that she is beautiful on the inside, but rather that she is beautiful within her father's house.
        - That is why the translators have supplied the word palace.
          - The word *within* requires a place, and we would misunderstand it in English if was left by itself.
          - And as she is a royal daughter, palace is the best way to describe her father's house.
    - So here we have described to us a beautiful, intelligent, capable young woman within her father's palace.
      - She is described as adorned with clothing that is interwoven with gold.
      - She is adorned and prepared for her husband to be presented to him as a bride.
  2. Now I want you to think about this...
    - When Jesus came into this fallen world, there were glorious kingdoms.
      - Remember how the tempter showed Him the glory of all the kingdoms of the world?
      - Yet, these were pagan nations who were estranged from God.
        - What beauty did they have?
        - What beauty does anyone have until they are brought into Christ's house?
          - If we are going to be reformed, don't we have to say that there is no beauty or glory in the kingdoms of this world?
          - And that when we come to Christ, we bring nothing but sin?

- Well, no, actually, we don't have to say that.
    - We sort of do because everything is corrupted by sin,
      - it is all marred and made unacceptable...
        - but it is a glory that is corrupted—there is still glory there.
    - The world is created by God and there are a lot of wonderful and talented and glorious nations that are glorious *before* the gospel comes to them.
      - They are glorious because God created them and gave them riches and beauty and skill—even social skills and even moral beauty.
        - We might admire the loyalty of a head-hunter to his wife...
        - And we might admire the tenderness of an immoral woman...
        - or the amazing intelligence of an ungodly scientist.
          - There is a lot of kindness and lot of beauty in the world.
          - Every person has a glory about them to be admired.
            - People are absolutely amazing, and so are nations.
3. And when people and nations turn to Jesus...
- or rather when Jesus comes to call them out to be His own,
    - and they are brought into His kingdom to live in His house,
    - They bring their glory with them!
      - They bring their riches and their intelligence and their kindness and their talents—all sorts of glory—into His house.
  - The problem with them is that they have this glory and beauty,
    - but they do not honour the true God who gave it to them.
    - And they have perverted the glory, but it is still glory!
      - Perverted glory is still glory and when it is brought to the Lord it is redeemed glory.
      - Take an atheist scientist who has the ability to speak and persuade others...
        - As long as he is outside of Christ, he uses his glory to promote evolution and lies that deny God...
          - but how glad we are when he is converted.
          - Now he lays his gifts and talents at Jesus' feet and uses them in His service!

- And you see in verse 12 how the nations are described as bringing their treasures and gifts into the house of the Lord.
    - “And the daughter of Tyre *will come* with a gift; The rich among the people will seek your favor.” (Ps 45:12 NKJV)
    - They are coming to seek His favour.
    - They are bringing their glory into God’s house to honour Him.
      - All those talents and abilities are being used for Him now that were once used apart from Him.
      - Their problem is not that they have no glory...
        - Their problem is sin...
        - They need to repent and turn to Christ for forgiveness and give their glory to God.
- B. And you see, this is what the ideal bride does—She brings her glory into her husband’s house...
- And then she becomes his glory!
    - Her glory is for him because she is part of his household.
1. I do not mean to embarrass her in saying this, but just look at Michelle Lindsay and what she did in organising the reception and doing the decorations.
    - She is obviously a very talented and gifted lady.
    - But she did not acquire her talent after she turned to the Lord.
      - She acquired it long before that.
      - But now, whether at work or at a wedding, she is using her talents for the glory of God, for His honour as His servant.
- a. Isn’t it a super encouragement that you can be Christ’s glory?
    - That is what the church is.
      - It is a light set on a hill for the glory of Christ!
      - It is here for the glory of Christ because it does what it does for Him.
    - You don’t have to be super talented—we are not all super talented.
      - But what you do is bring whatever you have and lay it at the feet of Jesus and use it as His servant in love and honour to Him.
      - You use whatever you have for His service and He delights in it.
    - We come to Him as defiled sinners who have used the gift of life in ways that are contrary to Him,
      - but by our union with Him, we begin to bring forth fruit that pleasing to God.



- He cleans up the sin in us, grants us pardon by His blood, and then the glory we have becomes a holy glory that pleases God.
  - And it is His glory because we do it to honour him.
- b. And this is what every wife is to endeavour to be in her husband's house.
  - In 1 Cor 11:7, Paul says:
    - 1 Cor 11:7: For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.
  - You wives are to use your talents for your husbands.
    - You bring your glory into his house and it becomes his glory.
      - Submission is not just raw obedience—it is doing things in a way that honours your husband... visibly...
    - A wise husband will encourage his wife to be glorious—he will not crush her and squash her, but he will help to draw forth her beauty.
      - It is a beauty that is seen in their relationship as she is devoted to him now, just as the church is devoted to Christ.
  - And once again,
    - even if a woman has a husband who is an unworthy or even a wicked sort of man,
      - she is still to devote herself to serving him and seeking to please him.
      - This is the service that Christ calls her to.
        - Not service with an attitude—“There—I did it.”
        - But service with honour—“Here, for you”

TRANS> And I want you to see that this is something we all do together as the bride of Christ.

2. We all make up the bride of Christ together...in a corporate way
  - You see here in Ps 45 that there are many virgins, from the different nations, who come together with the daughter of the king...
    - And they are all brought into the king's palace and brought to Him also.
    - Look at verse 14-15.
      - Ps 45:14-15: She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors; The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You. With gladness and rejoicing they shall be brought; They shall enter the King's palace.
  - God forbade polygamy for kings,
    - yet polygamy is used here to refer to the glorious nature of the church as the nations coming and bringing their glory to Christ.

- Notice that it says that they are brought to Him and that they enter His palace.
  - Jesus Christ has only one bride, one church, but there are many members...
    - And the point is that we are all brought into His house and the whole mass of us together make up His bride.
    - Each of us has a role to play, each of us has something of our own to bring.
      - and once it is done for the honour of Christ,
        - it becomes His glory.
        - *We* become His glory.
- C. And you see that according to verse 15, the members that make up Christ's bride come with gladness and rejoicing!
- They do not come reluctantly to devote themselves to Him and to be His glory.
    - The wife makes dinner for her husband and says,
      - "There's your stupid old dinner" is not honouring her husband.
      - Again, to quote Wilson again,
        - "An obedient but surly wife is unsubmitive, and a wife who makes a display of her conservative, traditional values submissiveness is simply a holdover from early forms of nineteenth-century feminism."
  - There two reasons the bride of Christ comes with gladness and rejoicing.
    1. First, she comes gladly because she knows that this is where she belongs.
      - She knows that He is her Lord and that there nothing better than to give herself to him.
        - Our separation from God is such a lonely thing—we are so isolated...
          - we are left with glory and no proper place to display it—no one to use it for.
        - "Now I have someone to live for!
          - The one I should have been living for all along."
    2. Secondly, she comes gladly because He is so good to her...
      - He has given Himself to redeem her...
        - He has loved her first, so now she loves Him with a responsive love.
        - She says:

- Ps 116:12-14: What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me? I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD now in the presence of all His people.
3. Brothers and sisters, this kind of glad obedience is what you grow in as you meditate on the cross of Jesus Christ.
- As you consider what He has done for you, you want to just pour you life out all for Him!
    - You don't have this all at once, but you grow into more and more...
    - Even as you come to the Lord's Table and remember what He has done afresh and lift up your voice in praise to Him.
      - A wife can render reluctant service,
        - She can put on a great feast in the home with strife and bitterness and it would have been better if she had not done it at all—
          - There is no glory in it...
          - "Here—for you!" she says with a scowl.
  - But the obedience that the church gives when Christ has captured her heart as a glad service and a glad obedience cheerfully rendered.
    - Wives who render such service to their husbands bring glory to their husbands.
    - And they bring glory to Christ.

Next week we will look at the fruitfulness of the bride and the bridegroom when they are joined together.