

4/7/24

Welcome back!

Everyone ready for the end of the world tomorrow? hahaha!

What do you see that the church needs to be aware of?

This is just bizarre

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13278719/kush-zombie-drug-Sierra-Leone-police-cemeteries-human-bones.html>

Armed police stand guard outside Sierra Leone's cemeteries to stop drug addicts stealing human bones that they grind up and use in new psychoactive 'zombie' drug sweeping the country

- 'kush' - a highly addictive drug cocktail made up of marijuana, fentanyl, tramadol and formaldehyde.
- It has also been claimed that a key ingredient is ground-up human bones, which some suggest is enhances the high due to the trace amounts of sulphur.

REVIEW

We left off looking at 3 stages of the Bride's growth as revealed in her statements about her relationship to her Groom
[Song 2:16 My beloved is mine, and I am his;](#)

Stage 2 Declaration – youthful / recognizing Lordship
[Song 6: 3 "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine](#)

Stage 3 Declaration – self-abandoned, a mature Christian
[Song 7: 10 "I am my beloved's, And his desire is for me.](#)

We began looking in depth at 'stage 1'

We brought up how new Christians / young in the Lord will pray and ask God for what we might scoff at as 'silly things' and God delivers the goods often.

- This is great, but there is a hazard here IF we don't help with their growth / maturation in Christ
- If they never learn or seek God for more, if nobody is mentoring them, they might expect this to continue and yet God will pull back those 'blessings' in an effort to 'fertilize' the plant, get it to dig down to find a real supply of water & stop relying on surface water.

I asked if there was a danger about that, and yes there is. It's that the person will lose interest once God stops or dries up the blessings.

Continuing:

Think about it – "Cast your net on the other side of the boat" – if that were the goal of the kingdom, they'd have the biggest tuna cannery on Earth!

- It wasn't about the provision of God
- It was about God who can provide

If this is not true, why was the apostle Paul often imprisoned, hungry, exposed to the elements, hunted, beaten etc.?

In John 6

What did Jesus do for 5,000 people who were coming to Him because He was doing something nobody before Him had ever done, and they wanted to experience / know Him?

The next day –

(just read this) John 6: 23 There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus. ²⁵ When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?"

What do you suppose Jesus answered them?

John 6: 26 Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

This is an example where God proves Himself as One who can take care of His own, but urges you on in your growth rather than your satisfaction, because He knows which one will perish with the use and which will last to everlasting life

DETOUR – want to cover this now so it doesn't become a point of distraction later

We will be hitting this contextually next

Song 2:7, 3:5, 8:4

"I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases."(ESV)

I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, That ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until he please. (KJV)

"I want you to swear, O daughters of Jerusalem, Do not arouse or awaken *my* love Until she pleases." (NASB 1977)

See https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb95/sng/8/4/t_conc_679004

They don't really know.

They obviously have reasons they view as sound based on a perspective I do not share e.g.

- they have a checklist of rules that overlook the spirit of what is being said
- they have a rule that defaults to the masculine at times of uncertainty

Personally, I believe the NASB is correct in this translation because

- The woman in a Godly-structured relationship always sets the level of intimacy
- The man can prod, woo, buy flowers, make advances, make his desires known
- But she must set this level
- If she does not – if the man sets that level and the woman doesn't want it, it becomes forced intimacy or rape
 - This is the spirit behind why Solomon disguised himself, so she would love him for who he is

Do not awaken love until "HE" pleases –

- this is the male setting the level of intimacy
- This is God telling you that you have no free will, and will love Him when He is ready for you to love Him

Do not awaken love until "IT" pleases –

- This is (in my view) a weak 2nd place and is actually noted as such in BlueLetterBible
- It is weak because it says that love is a person, but if it is, and love is God, then you're back to the male setting the level of intimacy

This is not a point of division – feel free to think what you want on it.

I just want to define where I'm coming from so you'll have the opportunity to choose for yourself.

OK back from detour – (above phrase is right after raisin cakes in song2)

His 'flagons' (Song 2, raisin cakes), His material blessings are not for our perpetual enjoyment.

- They are to ensure us that He is able to provide.

Seek 1st the kingdom and His righteousness, and “all these things” will be added

- All what things?
- The things the Bride was seeking from Him, that He was providing her.

“babes” (1Cor3:1) – babies are self-centered by nature.

You hear from them out of 1 end or the other, when they want something.

This is normal.

It is evident that this does not bother Christ any more than a parent is offended when Junior gives them a golden shower

She says, “sustain me with all these goodies,” then says

Song 2: ⁶ "Let his left hand be under my head And his right hand embrace me."

Her idea of intimacy is what God can give her

Madonna “material world” and I am a material girl – the ones that save their pennies make her rainy day

I said it didn’t bother Christ that the bride was in this stage – His response was

Song 2: ⁷ "I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the hinds of the field, That you do not arouse or awaken my love Until she pleases."

Remember our He/She/It of the translations KJV / NAS / ESV respectively?

I believe God is looking at her immature statements of ‘love’ for Him and saying, “She’s going to get there! Don’t force this.”

- Babies being babies are not a problem
- Adults being babies are a real problem – so much Hebrews rails on his recipients for this
[Heb 5: 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.](#)

As a husband / father, I want to meet the needs of my family.

- I have a friend (Eddie Gogurt) whose family ‘loves him’ verbally while they reach into his pocket for cash.
- If a man begins being viewed as a sugar daddy he might pull back on the benefits to evaluate their relationship and spur it to deeper growth

Jesus and the 5,000 in John 6 – he overtly said this much (do not seek / stop seeking the food which perishes)

Understand, God wants to meet our needs but it’s to our own benefit that our interests/priorities grow beyond the elements of this world to reach the depths of His Kingdom, an everlasting kingdom.

Many in the church are suffering immaturity because the church is often talking about the benefits of salvation and almost never about the role that suffering plays.

Emphasizing the benefits of the resurrection vs the lordship of Christ

STAGE 2

After getting some skin in the game and having some of it removed (going through some tough things), she starts to see the importance of the process of self-abandonment

Stage 1 Declaration – childish / self importance

Song 2:16 My beloved is mine, and I am his;

- Self importance and possession define her
- Expected of a young child

Stage 2 Declaration – youthful / recognizing Lordship

Song 6: 3 "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine"

- She begins to see how important she is to Him
- But there is still a selfishness aspect, "my beloved is mine"
- Expected of a young Christian

At first, like in the recently born-again, She expressed a **love** for Him but that love was largely based on the things He gave her

- You often hear where the value-center of their Christ-relationship is in public prayer meetings
 - (not a bad thing, just that it's often times stuff, thanks for stuff etc.)
 - the car, the promotion, the stress, that the house would sell soon, healing, etc..
- 'stay me with flagons because I'm love sick' – i.e. I love you, so give me more of what you have given me

But as you progress & grow in Christ the VALUE in your relationship with Christ (like this Bride here in 6:3) starts moving toward the kind of Person He is.

Then those public prayers begin to be more toward repentance, (above issues) but for other people,

Can you see the progress in her (6:3) statement?

Explain

- By this time (Ch6) she's been knocked around a bit because of her newfound revelation of Jesus.
- She's not 100% yielded yet, but she is walking in what she knows, as awkward (pic on screen) as an adolescent may seem
- She's between worlds of loving what He does, and learning to love Him for who He is
 - this is something the Daughters or Watchmen will never understand

She still tags on "and my beloved is mine"

Psalm 37 'fret not' study –

- "I am laying down this whole thing for you to solve" (I am by beloveds)
- "but in case you don't fix it, I'll still worry about it rather than delight myself in you so I truly forget it, because if I worry it might help" (he is mine)

this process of total abandonment is difficult in a society that provides everything for people whether they work or not.

Note – this 'end tag' reminds us that self-denial, death to self, self abandonment for the sake of a closer walk with Jesus *is a process*, not a single act!

STAGE 3

In Song 7:1-9 we see Solomon 'going for broke'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BguoQO1XN2o&t=2m56s>

She then realizes how much He loves her and makes this final declaration

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Stage 2 Declaration – youthful / recognizing Lordship

Song 6: 3 "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine"

- Lordship is recognized
- But there is still a selfishness aspect, "my beloved is mine"
- Expected of a young Christian

Stage 3 Declaration – self-abandoned, a mature Christian

Song 7: 10 "I am my beloved's, And his desire is for me."

- Lordship is recognized
- Self has no more say in my life / no sway over her actions
- This is a complete reversal from her beginnings
- Esp. after v.1-9, she realizes his (he is powerful) desire is *for me*

Psalm 139: 17 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand

- 'Thy thoughts *unto* or *toward* me' – these outnumber the sand!
- intimately acquainted with all my ways
- before a word on my tongue, You know all
- This is language of someone infatuated with another.

In our flesh, we'd call them a stalker

When one truly realizes / remembers this, it gives total release from worry because

- God is all powerful and we are not
- What power of concern (the emotion) we got from Him and we didn't get more than He did

King David touched this when King Saul was after him.

Note for today - There are 2 paths:

One this system tells you to make, and usually makes perfect logical sense

One God's system leads you to make, and often does not make sense according to the logic of this realm

David knew

- Saul was after him to kill him
- David had already been anointed king
- 2 birds with one stone, baby!

Yet God put it on David's heart to trust fully in Him to deliver him.

He did not kill saul.

Did he do nothing and say, "God will protect me"?? NO and neither should you!!

You can read how all that worked itself out in God's time table and in His plan, after which David says in his old age

Psalm 37: ²⁵ I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging bread. ²⁶ All day long he is gracious and lends, And his descendants are a blessing. ²⁷ Depart from evil and do good, So you will abide forever. ²⁸ For the LORD loves justice And does not forsake His godly ones; They are preserved forever,

Remember – this is a process. Consider the "Help God Outs" David gave God.

- Bathsheba & Uriah
- Numbering the troops

So to the Bride, He becomes her entire list. She is totally taken up with Him.

Jesus isn't interested in being #1 on our list.

He wants to be our list.

Men – how would this go over with you if your wife said this?:

“Of all the men I interact with in my life, you’re my number one” (hahaha)

Ron Auch said

It’s a historical fact that whenever the church stops praying, she becomes a militant church. There is a reason for this. We are seeking security. God made the woman with a need for security. God made the woman with a need for security. Ideally a woman will draw her security from her husband’s relationship with Christ. If a woman is married to a man who does not seek God then she seeks to control the home. She does not do this out of some great desire to take over the leadership of her home, she is simply feeding her need for security. If her husband is not committed to God, she has a problem laying her life in His hands.