



A QUESTION OF CHARACTER

**LESSON 4
FIRST REVIEW**

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WORD FOR THE JOURNEY

- **James 1:21-22** Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

- Doers: *poietai*: a performer; especially a poet

- Hearers: *akroatai*: those who listen without participation

- **LEARNING GOAL FOR THIS CLASS:**

Learning to hear God and respond to Him in such a way that His purposes can be fulfilled in us

**GOD IS IN CONTROL OF
THE REFINING PROCESS**

REVIEWING TERMS

- **Character:** what makes a person distinct from others, whether good or bad
- **Romans 9:1** I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit...
- **Conscience:** moral co-perception; the working together of the brain and the mind
- **Romans 8:28** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.
- **Purpose:** showbread; the setting forth of something before God
- Romans 1: trouble begins when we suppress knowledge of God that we have

PARABLE OF THE MARRIAGE FEAST

• **Matthew 22:2-3** "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come." **6-7** and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them. But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire. **22:10-11** "Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests. But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes...."

• **Galatians 3:27** For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

THE JEWISH WEDDING FEAST

- The betrothal and drinking the cup of wine signifying covenant **Luke 22:20** And in the same way *He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.*
- The bridegroom returned to his father's house to prepare a place for the bride **John 14:2** "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you."
- The bridegroom left gifts for the bride sufficient for her needs until he returned **Ephesians 4:8** Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."
- The father of the groom determined the time he could come back for his bride **Matthew 24:36** "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."

THE REDEMPTION MODEL

- Duties of a redeemer: free enslaved relative
redeem land a relative lost
judicial executioner of murderer
marry female relative w/o heirs
- Jesus is the bridegroom; the church is the bride
- **Revelation 19:7-9** "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. It was **given to her to clothe herself** in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

RETURNING FOR THE BRIDE

- At the appointed time the bridegroom would return for the bride with a joyful procession, usually at night
- A shofar was blown to announce his coming; when he arrived, he called to his bride to come and go with him
- The friend of the bridegroom announced his imminent arrival: 1st coming: **John 3:28-29** "You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full." John the Baptist
- At the rapture: **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to

I NEVER KNEW YOU

• **Matthew 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

• **Matthew 25:6-12** "But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet *him*.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. "The foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ...while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. Later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us ' But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do

PURPOSE OF REDEMPTION

-to become conformed to the image of His son; only God can fix the skewed image of man that resulted from sin
- **Romans 8:31-37** What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

GOD REALLY IS IN CONTROL

- He even uses unsaved people to help us along the way!
- **Isaiah 45:1,5** Thus says the LORD to Cyrus His anointed, whom I have taken by the right hand, to subdue nations before him and to loose the loins of kings; to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut..... "I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, **though you have not known Me;**
- **Hebrews 1:1-3** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.
- Word: *rhema*: spoken word from *rheo*: an utterance; usually a portion of scriptural or God-given message

WE LIVE IN THE PLAN

- God has a plan: we live in the middle of the revelation of the plan (described as a mystery because all of it isn't completely known)
- **Revelation 10:7** ...but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.
- **1 Timothy 6:13-16** I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and

ALL THAT WE SEE AND KNOW...

- ...exists because of the sustaining power of God
- Nothing exists because of its own power or will
- Acts 17:24-28** "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things; and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'"

GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL; WHERE HAVE I/YOU

ALLOWED OTHER DOCTRINES TO REPLACE THIS TRUTH