

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

Lyric sheets of today's music can be obtained from the ushers upon request

The King of Love (*The King Has Come*)

The King of love is my delight.
His eyes are fire; His face is light.
The First and Last, the Living One,
His name is Jesus.

And from His mouth there comes a sound
That shakes the earth and splits the ground.
And yet this voice is life to me,
The voice of Jesus.

Chorus:

And I will sing my songs of love,
Calling out across the earth,
"The King has come! The King of love has come!"
And troubled minds can know His peace,
Captive hearts can be released,
The King has come! The King of love has come!

My Lover's breath is sweetest wine.
I am His prize, and He is mine.
How can a sinner know such joy?
Because of Jesus

The wounds of love are in His hands,
The price is paid for sinful man,
Accepted child, forgiven son,
Because of Jesus!

Bridge:

And my desire is to have You near,
Lord, You know that You are welcome here,
Before such love, before such grace,
I will let the walls come down.

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PASTORAL PRAYER

**UNVEILED HOPE:
LOVING JESUS WITH WEAKNESS AND HUMILITY**
Revelation 3:7-22

I. LOVING JESUS, OUR BRIDEGROOM

- Our **greatest need in life** is the “spousal affection” of Jesus, **period**. We simply must not lose sight of how the Book of Revelation begins... “to him who loves us and has freed us...” To the degree we are convinced and connected to this reality, to that degree we are “free, indeed.”
- Our **greatest calling in life** is to love Jesus in response to his great love for us. Thus far in our study of the seven churches of Asia Minor we have seen marks of Jesus’ “love-smitten” Bride include: **delight** (Ephesus), **tears** (Smyrna), **truth** (Pergamum), **purity** (Thyatira), and **passion** (Sardis). Today we will consider two more: **weakness** (Philadelphia) and **humility** (Laodicea). Though these seven marks do not exhaustively describe what it means to love our Bridegroom well, they do offer an incredibly helpful picture of what being alive to the “spousal affection” of Jesus will produce in our hearts and churches.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MINISTRY OF THE WORD CON’T, PART 2

—Scotty Smith

II. LOVING JESUS WITH WEAKNESS

“To my beloved in Philadelphia: Look up, my Bride! Don’t despise your smallness and weakness. When you are weak, I am strong”.

Revelation 3:7-13 "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. 8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars -- I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. 10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. 11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. 13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To believers and churches suffering from an inferiority complex, Jesus says: "I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut."

- The more fully we are alive to the "spousal love" of Jesus the less we will fall prey to performance based living and loving. The less we view the Christian life as doing things **for Jesus** (who we conceive of as being in heaven), the more we will become alive to being **with Jesus** (who we experience as being very much right here with us).
- Ministry is essentially God's power being manifest through our weakness. It is God using ordinary men and women to do extraordinary and eternal things! (2 Cor. 4:1-14). Indeed, the most operative pronoun in God's Story is "I" –and God is doing the talking.
- Notice how Jesus calls us to envision the splendor of the New Jerusalem as we live out the sacred romance in the broken and hostile cities where he sends us as his Bride. We should already be tasting the wedding feast of the Lamb as we partake of the Lord's Supper in the wilderness of the journey home.

COMMUNION—*BREAD*

MINISTRY OF THE WORD CON'T, PART 3

—Scott Roley

III. LOVING JESUS WITH HUMILITY

"To my beloved in Laodicea: Wake up, my Bride! Stop trusting in yourselves and your "wealth." When you are "strong," I am gone. I resist the proud but give multiplied grace to the humble".

Revelation 3:14-22 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. 21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

To believers and churches suffering from a superiority complex, Jesus says: “Here I am! If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”

- There is no greater violation of the mercy, grace and love of Jesus than for us to live as though we no longer need these treasures. Every one of us needs the gospel today as much as the first day we collapsed on Christ as desperate, needy, thirsty sinners.
- What is keeping you from humbly opening the door of your heart to Jesus’ knock today? What room are you afraid he might enter? What could possibly be sweeter or more necessary than for you to receive Jesus into your chaos and crisis right now? He comes dressed to serve you as the perfect Bridegroom to a very broken Bride.

Luke 12:35-37 “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, 36 like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. 37 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.

COMMUNION—CUP

DEACON’S OFFERING

BENEDICTION



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. What had the most impact on you from our time in God’s Word and worship today? What was convicting, encouraging and/or calling for more clarification?
2. When was your heart most alive to the beauty, grace and wonder of Jesus? Share stories with one another. What did that feel like... to be new, free and so convinced of his love for you?
3. Do you relate to the image of “leaking grace”... that is, of spiritual atrophy and becoming a lukewarm Christian? Which cause your affections for Jesus to diminish more... adversity or prosperity? Explain.
4. Did you hear Jesus speaking to you this morning? What was he saying? What will responding to his loving rebuke require of you? Will you open the door and let him minister to you? What will this look like?
5. Pray for an ongoing fresh and deepening work of the Holy Spirit in our church family. The breath of Jesus’ has been blowing on us in these recent weeks... let us hoist the sails of our hearts to the wind of His Spirit.