

Jesus, Our Bridegroom

Revelation 19:1-21

Big Idea: "Hallelujah — for the Lord our God the Almighty reigns." All glory, salvation, and power belong to Him alone. Jesus is the faithful bridegroom coming for His bride. Are you ready? Is He King of your heart?

Main Points

1. **His bride will be a people of praise.** Genuine praise is the natural overflow of a heart that belongs to God. What fills our hearts will shape what comes out of our mouths.
2. **His bride will be ready.** The parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 makes clear that readiness means responding to Jesus' invitation now, before the door is shut.
3. **His bride will recognize and embrace Jesus as King.** Jesus returns as Faithful and True, crowned with many diadems, robed in authority, and bearing the name King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
4. **His bride will witness God's triumph over every enemy.** Every force that has opposed God -- the beast, the false prophet, the armies of the earth -- will be defeated completely. God's justice will be final, thorough, and certain.

Scriptures:

- ☐ Acts 4:12
- ☐ John 14:6
- ☐ Revelation 6:9-10
- ☐ Luke 6:45
- ☐ Matthew 25:1-13
- ☐ John 1:1
- ☐ Psalm 2:9
- ☐ Isaiah 63:1-6
- ☐ Ephesians 5:22-27
- ☐ Philippians 2:9-11

Opening Question:

What is one wedding or big celebration you've attended that stands out in your memory, and what made it meaningful or memorable (Yes, you can share about yours.)?

Discussion Questions:

When you hear the word "hallelujah," what comes to mind? Does it feel like a word you use naturally, or does it feel distant from your everyday experience of worship?

Pastor Tim described a tension he personally feels between wanting to worship freely and becoming self-conscious. Can you relate to that? What do you think holds people back from uninhibited praise?

Pastor Tim pointed out that salvation, glory, and power all belong to God alone, drawing from Revelation 19:1 and Acts 4:12. How does that exclusivity challenge the way our culture thinks about faith? How does it shape the way you talk about Jesus with people who do not yet believe?

Revelation 19:8 describes the bride clothed in fine linen representing the righteous deeds of the saints, but the pastor was careful to explain that those deeds flow from abiding in Christ, not from self-effort. What is the difference between striving to earn righteousness and bearing fruit from a life connected to Jesus? How do you personally tell those two things apart in your own life?

In Matthew 25:1-13, five of the ten virgins were shut out because they were not ready. What does it mean practically to be "ready" for Christ's return? Is readiness a one-time decision or an ongoing posture? How would you describe it to someone who has never heard the gospel?

Ephesians 5:26-27 describes Jesus sanctifying and cleansing his bride so she will be without spot or wrinkle. The pastor made the bold statement that, in Christ, he is spotless before God. Does that feel true to you about yourself? What makes it difficult to believe, and what does Scripture say to those doubts?

Pastor Tim described Jesus returning as Faithful and True, contrasting him with the Antichrist who mimics his appearance. In what ways does the world today offer counterfeits of what only Jesus can provide -- peace, purpose, identity, security? How do you train yourself to recognize the real thing?

Revelation 19:15-16 describes Jesus ruling with a rod of iron and bearing the name King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The pastor asked whether Jesus is not just King of the universe but King of your heart. What does it look like in daily life to actually live under his kingship rather than just affirming it theologically?

Practical Applications:

1. Set aside time this week to read Psalm 2 and Isaiah 63:1-6, passages the pastor referenced. Ask God to deepen your understanding of his justice and sovereignty as you read.
2. Examine what is coming out of your mouth on a daily basis. Based on Luke 6:45, what does your speech reveal about the current condition of your heart? Bring that honestly before God in prayer.
3. Write down one area of your life where you are not yet living in full submission to Jesus as King. Confess it, and ask a trusted friend or group member to pray with you and follow up with you.
4. Pastor Tim described the church as being in an "engagement period" with Christ, anticipating the marriage that is to come. How does that picture change the way you think about your relationships within the church? Is there someone in your group or congregation you need to pursue more intentionally?

Closing Thought/Prayer:

Pray that our lives would be ready for Christ's return—filled with praise, clothed in His righteousness, and surrendered to Him as King of kings and Lord of lords.