

## The Groom & The Revolutionary!

### I. Slide#1blank **Announce:**

#### A. Slide#2 **Justice Conference:**

#### B. Slide#3 **Jen Mellor:** One of our Missionary to P.I.

1. Slide#4 Explain some of the **unique** ministries you do on the mission field. (graphics, flyers, design...for many ministries)
2. Slide#5 Why are you **teaching English** in Muslim & Bajao villages?
3. Slide#6 Tell them about the **Jewelry Project** for Muslim ladies (& Bajao perils)
4. Slide#7 Pic w/kids w/goofy fro's - Talk about the **Abused Women's Home**.
5. Slide#8 How **Difficult** is the **Mission Field life?** (depression, emotionally sick)
6. What are your **Financial needs?** (70%)
7. Recent answered prayer in a **companion** coming to work with you! (Bithia)

#### C. **Prayer:**

### II. Slide#9 **Intro:**

#### A. **Read** Mark Caraway's letter.

#### B. In vs.16,17 **the religious leaders** had a problem with **Who** Jesus was **associating with** at the table! - **Now** they have a problem with **How** He is **enjoying himself** w/them!

1. His conduct seemed...*well, inappropriate!*
2. **See, John the Baptist was austere, a recluse, an ascetic; but Jesus on the other hand, accepted invitations to meals, played with children, & enjoyed social engagements!**

#### C. Jesus had made it clear that He came to **convert** the **sinners**, **not** to **compliment** the **self-righteous!**

1. **Now** Jesus tells them that He had come to **bring gladness, not sadness.**<sup>1</sup>

#### D. **I believe** we'd see many many more souls come to Christ if people would simply read through this Gospel. **Why?**

1. Slide#10,11 Because the **distorted caricatures of Christ** would be revealed & the true radically winsome and **absolutely irresistible** Jesus would be revealed.
  - a) **Simply seeing Christ as He is in the Scriptures is life-changing.** There is something radically **inviting** about Him!

#### E. **Outline:** **The Glad Groom;** & **The Refreshing Revolutionary.**

<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe, Be Diligent, pg.26

### III. Slide#12 THE GLAD GROOM! (18-20)

#### A. FASTING: Background!

1. 1st we note the Pharisees would “whiten their faces, put ashes on their heads, wore disheveled garments, refused to wash, & looked as forlorn as possible.”
  - a) This way no one would miss the fact that they were fasting, & all would see & admire their devotion!
2. The Scriptures only required(maybe?) fasting once a year, on the day of Atonement.
  - a) Lev.16:29 **you shall afflict your souls** (lit. humble yourself)
3. In Zech. 8:19 we learned that they had come up w/4 other fasts themselves. **But** they **weren't necessary anymore after** the rebuilding of the new temple.
4. By Jesus' time, the Pharisees had decreed that “godly people” should fast **twice a week** (Mon & Thursdays) [6am-6pm]
  - a) **Most likely this hit on one of those days!**
5. Slide#13 The Pharisees were the 1st to promote the lie that, **“the more sour the saint the more spiritual!”**
  - a) Erma Bombeck tells of a time she was sitting in church & a small child turned around & began to smile at the people behind her. She was just smiling, not making a sound. When her mother noticed, she said in a stage whisper, **“Stop that grinning – you're in church,”** gave her a swat, & said, **“That's Better!”**
  - b) **“Some come to church like they had just read the will of their rich aunt, & learned that she had given everything to her pet hamster!”** (Kent Hughes)
6. The Pharisees would ask...isn't true spirituality when it makes you **“do things you don't want to do, & keeps you from doing the things you want to do?”** [Many believe this today!]
  - a) There's something comfortable about reducing Christianity to a list of **do's and don'ts**. **You always know where you stand, and this helps reduce anxiety!**
  - b) Slide#14 The Christian life is a **feast, not a funeral?**

B. (19,20) Since it was **John's disciples** that were really asking the question (Mt.9:14) is why I believe that Jesus uses the **bridegroom** analogy.

1. **John** had already used it in Jn.3:29 **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. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.**
2. Slide#15 Jesus also performed His **1st miracle** at a joyous wedding feast.
3. **Now**, He was inviting people to “come to the wedding”.
4. Becoming a Christian is like entering into a **marriage relationship**.

a) **Slide#16** Rom.7:4 **Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another; to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.**

5. 2 People are not married because they **know** each other.
6. 2 People are not married because they **have strong feelings** for each other.
7. 2 People are not married because they **live together**.
8. 2 People are married **when** they **commit themselves to each other & make this commitment known!** [This is usually done by an "I do!"]
9. **And so with Salvation!** – It is more than just **knowing about** Christ; **or having strong feelings about** him; **but** salvation comes when we say, **"I do!"**

C. **Why would it be inappropriate to fast at a friends wedding reception?**

D. **Slide#17** 1st from the Message bible (19,20) Jesus said, **"When you're celebrating a wedding, you don't skimp on the cake and wine. You feast. Later you may need to pull in your belt, but not now. As long as the bride and groom are with you, you have a good time. No one throws cold water on a friendly bonfire. This is Kingdom Come!"**

1. **Slide#18** Ancient Jewish weddings lasted **a week. A continuous week of feasting & celebration!**
2. For the *hard working* this was traditionally the **happiest week** in their lives.
3. They were often treated like kings & queens(sometimes/crowns)
4. A Rabbinical ruling said, **"All in attendance on the bridegroom are relieved of all religious observances which would lessen their joy."**<sup>2</sup>
  - a) Thus the wedding guests would be *exempt* from all **fasting**.
5. **Oh, a little reminder:** This side of the cross...we are no longer guests/friends of the bridegroom...**but** we are **the Bride** of Christ!
  - a) Now, make a comparison here! **Who is more joyful, the guests or the Bride & Groom?**
    - (1) Our joy should outdistance the guest's w/intensity & continuance!!!

E. **Slide#19 Do you have JOY Christian? Do you cultivate it?**

1. **The early Christians** were accused of being drunk they were so joyful!
2. **The 1st Franciscans** were reprovved for laughing in church because they were so happy.
3. **The 1st Convents** of the Reformed Carmelites were most happy places, because **St. Theresa** insisted on musical instruments & a jolly time in the house of recreation.
4. **The 1st Methodists** stole some of their hymn tunes from **operas** & set the songs of Zion to dance music.

<sup>2</sup> William Barclay, Mark, pg.59

5. **The 1st Salvationists** jumped for joy because General Booth always told them that if they felt the spirit move them, they could **leap** in a hymn or a prayer, **& they did!**  
 a) There is **perpetual wedding joy w/Christ** for those who will have it!

F. **Slide#20 So what's the key to getting & keeping this Joy?**

1. It is *the **discovery of Christ & the company of Christ*** which is the key to happiness!
2. As Benjamin Franklin once said, "The Constitution only gives people the **right to pursue** happiness. You have to **catch it** yourselves!"

G. **Slide#21 The following vices are very common to Pharisees.**

1. **You are a Pharisee** If...you are more busied in censuring the conduct of others, **than** in rectifying your own!
2. **You are a Pharisee** If...you desire that everyone should regulate their piety by **yours**; & embrace your particular **customs & forms** of devotion!
3. **You are a Pharisee** If...you speak of & compare yourself w/other people, **only that** you may have an opportunity of distinguishing & exalting yourself!
4. **You are a Pharisee** If...**you bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but you yourself will not move them with one of your fingers.** Mt.23:4  
 a) Christianity is not a **Sob**, but a **Song!**
5. **You are a Pharisee** If...you think Christianity is about **rules** rather than **relationship**.
6. **You are a Pharisee** If...you think any church that has experienced **growth** must be **watering down the Gospel**.
7. **You are a Pharisee** If...you accept only the KJV as authorized **because** it's the version that Paul & Silas carried.
8. **You are a Pharisee** If...your sins seem **so small** when placed beside the really BIG sins of others.
9. **You are a Pharisee** If...you rationalize that Christians who don't agree with you **are all** "compromisers."
10. **You are a Pharisee** If...you rehearse your virtues **when you should** be confessing your sin.
11. **You are a Pharisee** If...you are obsessed with externals, **but** blind to the internal reality of your own soul.
12. **You are a Pharisee** If...your outward righteousness is more important than your heart holiness.
13. **You are a Pharisee** If...you are insulted by the notion **you may be a Pharisee!!!**  
 a) **How do I know these are true?...**because **I am a recovering Pharisee!**

- H. (20) **When the bridegroom will be taken away from them** – This is a hint of His anticipated *death, resurrection, & return* to heaven. **Yet**, it seems to go right over their heads.
1. **Death did not take Him *unaware!*** He saw His cross ahead!
- I. **They will fast in those days** – Jesus wasn't suggesting that their **feast** needed to be turned into a **funeral** when He left!
1. **Slide#22** He was only pointing out that **fasting** would be proper at a future time, **but** that **joyful celebration** should be the *normal experience* of believers!<sup>3</sup>

#### IV. **Slide#23 A REFRESHING REVOLUTIONARY! (21-22)**

- A. Now Jesus uses **2 illustrations** to make his point! **New Cloth & New Wineskins!**
1. **With Jesus *earth was crammed with heaven.*** He lived so close to God that everything spoke to Him of God! [Look for *your own* devotions...daily!]
- B. **Slide#24 New Cloth** – Picture an old sail on a sail boat. **If you patch a hole with a new sail cloth, as soon as it gets wet & dries, you will have far bigger hole!**
1. The new fabric Jesus brings can't be interwoven w/the tired fibers of **old religion**...it will simply tear apart!
- C. **Slide#25 New Wineskin** - Water or wine “bottles” were frequently made from **animal skins**. **Such leather vessels were popular among nomadic peoples for their durability.**
1. **Slide#26** The skins of goats were stripped off as nearly whole as possible & partly tanned, so they could be filled w/new wine.
  2. Their natural elasticity & strength would allow the fermenting new wine to expand. (Gives off gasses, causing pressure)
  3. **Thus**, new wine in old skins would cause them to burst & then you'd lose of both the wine & skin.
  4. The new wine Jesus brings is **expanding!**
    - a) He fills *the wineskins of our lives* **which** stretches us to **new limits!**
- D. **What is Jesus suggesting about **Himself** by talking about new cloth & new wineskins?**
1. He's pointing out that **He** has come to bring **something startlingly new**. **Not to tack something onto Judaism.**
  2. **Slide#27** “I have come to bring **a brand new relationship with God!!!**”
  3. \* They might have been happy to **add a few of His new teachings** to theirs, **but** He showed them very clearly the folly of this!
  4. The Christian faith is “*exclusive*” in nature! – Acts 4:12 **Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**

<sup>3</sup> Clyde E. Fant, Jr. & William A. Pinson, Jr. *Twenty Centuries of Great Preaching*, pg.27,28 [quoted from Kent Hughes pg.78]

- a) Salvation is **not patching up a few areas** of your life, **it is a whole new robe** of righteousness
- E. The Christian life is **not a mixing of the old & the new**; **rather**, it is a **fulfillment** of the old **in the new**.
1. **Slide#28 Ex:** There is 2 ways to destroy something. **Smash it or permit it to fulfill itself.**
    - a) An **acorn**, for example can be **smashed w/a hammer**, **or** it can be planted & **allowed to grow into an oak**.
    - b) **In both instances**, the *destruction* of the acorn is accomplished; **but** in the 2nd instance, the acorn is destroyed by **being fulfilled**.
- F. **What identifies Pharisaical Christianity?**
1. Whenever something is emphasized that we must **do** for God, **rather than on** what God has **done** for us in Jesus!
  2. Whenever we impose man-made rules on people in the name of achieving holiness by avoiding sinners.
  3. Whenever we see sin in others **but** not in ourselves!
- G. **Slide#29** If the **Pharisees** had a Halo it would be way **too tight!**
- H. If the **Sadducees** had a Halo it would be in their **back pocket!**
- I. If the **Zealots** had a Halo they would be **throwing it** at people!
- J. If the **Essenes** had a Halo you **wouldn't know it** because you'd never get a peek at it!
1. **Slide#30blank** Brennan Manning, *"The titled halo of a saved sinner is worn loosely & w/easy grace!"*