

Friday, 7/27

Examine: The King is enthralled by the beauty of his bride. She is arraigned in splendid wedding garments as she is presented to her King. Clothed with palace garments, not her own, her beauty is breathtaking, and she glories in being presented to her husband King and to live in the palace. Her delight is in her King, and the King's delight is in his bride. What a wonderful thing to meditate on: How God delights in the beauty of His Church, a beauty which He has given it!

Apply: Martin Luther wrote, "Our beauty does not consist in our won virtues, nor even in the gifts which we have received from God, by which we put forth virtues and do all those things which pertain unto the life of the law; but in this—our apprehending Christ and believing in him. Then it is that we are truly beautiful: and it is this beauty alone that Christ looks upon, and upon no other." The Church comes to its marriage ceremony arraigned in Christ's body and blood shed upon the cross, in a holiness that he has wrought, and in faith that he has given, and toward a hope that he has now accomplished.

Pray: that we always look in praise toward the free gift of faith and life wrought by our Savior, and not toward our own works or effort. Pray that this would free us ever more toward humble works of thanksgiving as we seek to reflect God's grace in the world.

Read: Psalm 45: 16-17

Saturday, 7/28

Examine: Here is a divine declaration of God's purpose to fulfill the Davidic Covenant in the Messianic King. The background of this is 2 Samuel 7, one of the most important chapters in the Old Testament. It is to this promise that God's people clung, through kingdom schisms, wicked rulers, and even exile and abandonment. Yet a remnant remained, and a shoot of that remnant would one day rule forever. The Old Testament saints looked forward in faith to that promise. We see that day as come, and look forward in faith to its ultimate fulfillment.

Apply: Behind these verses is the covenant of redemption, the promise that the Father has given to the Son from before the foundation of the world: "As You give Yourself for them, I will give You a people and no one will take them from Your hand, and You will reign forever and ever exalted in Your person and in Your word." Behind this word of promise to the Messianic King is the promise of God from eternity to His Son, a promise that cannot be broken.

Pray: How can we ever do justice in praise of our glorious covenant-keeping God? May God use this Psalm to encourage our hearts in whatever situation we find our souls in, and to train up our minds and emotions to glory in our Savior King.



Taking Gathered Worship Home

Family and Individual Devotions

Meditations in the Psalms

Week of July 22, 2007

We go from the depths of despair, doubt, and anguish in Psalms 42-43 to the heights of praise and glory in Psalm 45. Again, we must ask ourselves what this Psalm teaches us about Christ and out the Christian experience. This Psalm is a royal wedding song, and is very reminiscent of the Song of Solomon, and both of these songs or poems reflect on the great metaphor of the New Testament on the relationship between a husband and wife and between Christ and the Church (see 2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:22-33). The Psalms teach us much theology. In this Psalm we learn about the deity of Christ, the God-man nature of the anointed one, the imputation of Christ's righteousness, the union of Christ with his chosen faithful, the fulfillment of God's eternal covenant in Christ, and on and on. The Psalms are a textbook of Christ and his work, a training book for the Christian's emotional and physical life, and a songbook teaching the believer how to praise his God in song and prayer. Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to these great truths that our hearts might burn within us as we see that all these Scriptures point to Christ, and that our eyes would be open to recognize him, even as he walks beside us. (Luke 24:25-32)

Sunday, 7/21

Read: Psalm 45: 1

Examine: The writer of this Psalm tells us that this is a wedding song composed for the Davidic King. It is a song straining to tell of a heart "overflowing" ("stirred" in the NIV) with praise and delight. But this song is ultimately about the Messianic King, as the author of Hebrews tells us in chapter 1. This Psalm is an expression of praise to the Lord Jesus, who is Messiah. We must interpret this Psalm in the light of the truth and the beauty of Christ and as his bride, the Church.

Apply: In Rev 2:1-7 we read of the steadfast and doctrinally rigid Church at Ephesus. Yet Christ admonishes this Church because it had forsaken its "first love." God's people are foremost a people who delight in and love above all else the truth and beauty of Christ.

Like looking back on your wedding day and the thrilling joy, and awe of seeing your chosen bride or groom for the first time, the Psalmist calls us back to that same all encompassing joy of our “first love,” when Christ called us to himself. “He who values not Christ above all, does not value Christ at all.”

Pray that the Holy Spirit would re-instill in our hearts the joy, awe, and delight we have in Christ, and that this would spill over in our lives to encompass those around us.

Monday, 7/23 **Read:** Psalm 45:2

Examine: The Psalmist describes the king as “fairer” (KJV) or “most excellent” (NIV), but the word really refers to the King’s “beauty.” The Hebrew word is *yaphaw* and it is repeated twice (the King is “beautiful beautiful”) to emphasize and underscore the King’s unsurpassed beauty. This is not only a description of the King’s appearance, but of his character. Beauty is what causes us to desire him, to draw near to him and delight in him.

Apply: In his essay, *The End for Which God Created the World* the great theologian Jonathan Edwards proclaimed that God’s ultimate end is the manifestation of His glory in the happiness of His creatures. Edwards understood that God is most glorified in us, and we are most happy as His creatures, when we are most satisfied in Him, delight in Him, and are drawn to His beauty and reflect it in our lives. This was a life transforming truth for Edwards, and can be for you as well.

Pray that our eyes would be open and our hearts drawn to the beauty of our King Jesus, and that this beauty would be reflected in our lives as His bride, the Church. Praise God for His beauty and delight in it.

Tuesday, 7/24 **Read:** Psalm 45:3-5

Examine: The King is described as victorious on behalf of truth, humility, and righteousness. His sword is girded, as if finished with its awesome task of vanquishing the enemies of his people. In sharp contrast to Psalm 42-43 of last week, here we see the victory and triumph of the King on display. But it is a King greater than David, greater than Solomon, greater than all the Kings of Judah and Israel together; it is our great Savior King and Messiah, Jesus.

Apply: In our age truth will often be ridiculed, humility and meekness will be oppressed, and righteousness slain. It is only through the true Son of God, the Man in whom these precious things are incarnated, that the true hope of the world lies. The Psalmist glories in the final conquering of the enemies of truth, meekness, and righteousness. Yet no earthly King has or ever will bring this about. Yet it has come about through our heavenly King on the cross. We pray even so that this victory will be made manifest before our own eyes now in faith and hope and soon before the eyes of the world when Christ comes again triumphantly.

Pray: that God’s will, His truth and righteousness, would be made known in this world

and throughout our culture. Pray for God’s own humility and meekness as we strive to reflect His truth and righteousness in our own lives and through our witness.

Read: Psalm 45:6-9

Wednesday, 7/25

Examine: What a remarkable juxtaposition of verses! In verse 6 the Psalmist now addresses the King as God, “*Elohim*,” who will reign eternally (see God’s promise to David in 2 Sam 7:8-16). In the following verse 7 the King is anointed by God, “your God.” Who is this glorious King who is anointed by God, yet addressed as God, one who reigns forever? The author of Hebrews makes this unmistakable clear in Heb 1:8. The Old Testament Psalmist points us ever more toward Jesus, the anointed Messiah, the God-Man, Immanuel, God with us.

Apply: Charles Spurgeon says, “We never appreciate the tender condescension of our King in becoming one flesh with his church, and placing her at his right hand, until we have fully rejoiced in his essential glory and deity. What a mercy for us that our Savior is God, for who but God could execute the work of salvation? What a glad thing it is that He reigns on a throne which will never pass away, for we need both sovereign grace and eternal love to secure our happiness...no throne can endure forever, but that on which God himself sits.”

Pray Praise our King who reigns eternally, who loves righteousness and hates wickedness, who rules in truth and light. Pray to trust more and more in Him who cannot err, who cannot change, and whose reign cannot end.

Read: Psalm 45: 10-12

Thursday, 7/26

Examine: The focus of the Psalmist is now on the new bride of the King. He counsels her to now forget her people and her father’s house. She is entering upon a new relationship. Her old relationships are past; she is now a part of the royal family. Everything is new; everything that belongs to the King now belongs to her as well. From whatever humble background she may have come from, the new Queen will now command respect and praise from all over the world (verse 12).

Apply: It is not easy for the Christian to renounce the world as we are commanded to do. Yet what is forsaken cannot be compared to the riches and glories of being united with Christ as His bride, the Church. The Christian is in a new relationship, both in terms of his relationship to God and to the world. He cannot go back. We are called now to live lives in conformity with our calling and relationship. We are to live like Kings and Queens, in truth, humility, and righteousness.

Pray for daily growth in sanctification, as we are set apart for our King, and that we may conform more and more to His image and likeness.

Read: Psalm 45: 13-15