



## THE CHRIST, TEACHER, PROPHET, FRIEND, LORD, SHEPHERD, BRIDEGROOM

JEFF HOOVER – AUGUST 2, 2015 – EVANGEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### MATTHEW 16:13-16 NIV

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “**Who do people say the Son of Man is?**”

<sup>14</sup> They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

<sup>15</sup> “**But what about you?**” he asked. “**Who do you say I am?**”

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

## JESUS, THE BRIDEGROOM GOD

**The Great Value of Reading Proverbs:** <sup>2</sup> Within these sayings will be found the revelation of wisdom and the impartation of spiritual understanding. Use them as keys to unlock the treasures of true knowledge. <sup>3</sup> Those who cling to these words will receive discipline to demonstrate wisdom in every relationship, and to choose what is right and just and fair. <sup>4</sup> These proverbs will give you great skill to teach the immature and make them wise, to give youth the understanding of their design and destiny. <sup>5</sup> For the wise, these proverbs will make you even wiser, and for those with discernment, you will be able to acquire brilliant strategies for leadership. <sup>6</sup> These kingdom revelations will break open your understanding to unveil the deeper meaning of parables, poetic riddles, and epigrams, and to unravel the words and enigmas of the wise. (Pr 1:2-6 NLT-SE)

Example: How then does a man gain The essence of wisdom? We cross the threshold of true knowledge When we live in complete awe and adoration of God. (Pr 1:7 NLT-SE)

### I. INTRO: “BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?” HE ASKED. “WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?”

- A. The nature of scholastic testing is that it’s NOT designed **eliminate** you from the class, but to **prepare** you to graduate and move forward towards the completion of your educational journey.
- B. The nature of spiritual testing is NOT to **defeat** you, but to **prepare** you to overcome the adversity that is part of the advancing kingdom of God.
  1. Though the Lord gave you adversity for food and suffering for drink, **he will still be with you to teach you.** You will see your teacher with your own eyes. (Is 30:20 NLT-SE)
  2. <sup>10</sup> Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, “It has come at last— salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth— the one who accuses them before our God day and night. <sup>11</sup> And they have defeated him by the **blood of the Lamb** and **by their testimony**. And they **did not love their lives** so much that they were afraid to die. (Rev 12:10–11 NLT-SE)
- C. A “**Final Exam**” pulls together all the key elements that have been covered in the class over the semester and the questions are designed to “**test**” **your comprehension and understanding** of what has been taught. This question posed by Jesus, “Who do you say I am?” will surely be on our final exam. Wisdom would encourage us

to develop a personal response NOW, so that our hearts are prepared to answer the question swiftly, thoughtfully, and passionately as we move toward the end of the age.

## II. THE BRIDEGROOM GOD FROM 4 DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES:

**A. Isaiah/Hosea...**Isaiah declared that our Maker is our husband (Is 54:5). Jesus created us for love. This was a new insight for Israel, to see God as a Bridegroom God who had deep desire for His weak people. Hosea was a contemporary of Isaiah and had been given the “literal” message to the people of Israel that bookended Isaiah’s “metaphorical” message.

<sup>2</sup> When the LORD first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, he said to him, “Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. **This will illustrate how Israel has acted like a prostitute by turning against the LORD and worshiping other gods.**”...<sup>7</sup> When she runs after her lovers, she won’t be able to catch them. She will search for them but not find them. Then she will think, ‘**I might as well return to my husband**, for I was better off with him than I am now.’...<sup>14</sup> “But then I will win her back once again. **I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her there.**” <sup>15</sup> I will return her vineyards to her and transform the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope. She will give herself to me there, as she did long ago when she was young, when I freed her from her captivity in Egypt. <sup>16</sup> When that day comes,” says the LORD, “**you will call me ‘my husband’ instead of ‘my master.’**” (Hos 1:2; 2:7; 14–16 NLT-SE)

**B. John the Baptist...**When John’s disciples come to him and ask how he feels about all the attention Jesus is getting, he paints a clear picture of where he feels he stands relative to the Bridegroom God. His true desire is to see Jesus’ ministry explode in the hearts of the people who are desperate for salvation.

<sup>28</sup> You yourselves know how plainly I told you, ‘I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.’ <sup>29</sup> **It is the bridegroom who marries the bride**, and the best man is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. <sup>30</sup> He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less. (John 3:28–30 NLT-SE)

**C. Jesus...**Jesus has just finished painting a picture of what will be unfolding on the Earth prior to His return. His desire is to see the church fully prepared for the events that are about to unfold.

The Kingdom of Heaven will be like **ten bridesmaids** who took their lamps and **went to meet the bridegroom.** (Matt 25:1 NLT-SE)

**D. John the Revelator...**The apostle John is given an unprecedented revelation of the end of the age from prison on the island of Patmos.

<sup>7</sup> Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For **the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself.** <sup>8</sup> She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear.” For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God’s holy people. <sup>9</sup> And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” And he added, “These are true words that come from God.” (Rev 19:7–9 NLT-SE)

## III. METAPHOR VS. LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE

**A. Define Metaphor...**A comparison between two unrelated things; does NOT use the words “like” or “as.”

1. A brief grammar lesson is helpful here:

- a) “America is a melting pot” is a **metaphor**.
- b) “Life is like a box of chocolates” is a **simile**.
- c) “Pink is to red as gray is to black” is an **analogy**.

2. What Is the Difference Between a **Parable** and a **Metaphor**?

Both **parables** and **metaphors** have hidden meanings. A parable uses a story to convey a deeper message. Metaphors refer to one subject, while the actual subject is something else entirely.

- B. **A theological war...**has raged for centuries over these two methods of biblical interpretation.

Instead of asking “**do you take this passage literally?**” or “**do you take this passage metaphorically?**”, I would suggest that we should begin asking: “**do you take this passage seriously?**”

#### IV.WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

- A. You are the one who **loved me first...**

<sup>9</sup> God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. <sup>10</sup> **This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us** and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. (1 John 4:9–10 NLT-SE)

- B. You are the one who **chose me...**

And when I passed by again, **I saw that you were old enough for love.** So I wrapped my cloak around you to cover your nakedness and declared my marriage vows. **I made a covenant with you, says the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine.** [God is addressing the city of Jerusalem] (Ezek 16:8 NLT-SE)

- C. You are the one who **pursued me...**

Surely **your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me** all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever. (Psa 23:6 NLT-SE)

- D. I have **prepared my heart for you alone...**

Don't tear your clothing in your grief, but **tear your hearts instead.**” Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish. (Joel 2:13 NLT-SE)

- E. You are the **Bridegroom God...**

<sup>4</sup> Never again will you be called “The Forsaken City” or “The Desolate Land.” **Your new name will be “The City of God’s Delight” and “The Bride of God,” for the LORD delights in you and will claim you as his bride.** <sup>5</sup> Your children will commit themselves to you, O Jerusalem, just as a young man commits himself to his bride. Then God will rejoice over you as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride. (Is 62:4–5 NLT-SE)

- F. You are **my husband...**

For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. **I promised you as a pure bride to one husband—Christ.** (2 Cor 11:2 NLT-SE)

- G. You are **the one I love!**

<sup>15</sup> After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “**you know I love you.**” “Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him. <sup>16</sup> Jesus repeated the question: “Simon son of John, do you love me?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter said, “you know I love you.” “Then take care of my sheep,” Jesus said. <sup>17</sup> A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep. (John 21:15–17 NLT-SE)