

John 14:1-14

This manuscript is a Summary, for a full expression of this sermon, please download the audio file.

Bridegroom Analogy.

"Jewish marriage included a number of steps: first, betrothal (which involved the prospective groom's traveling from his father's house to the home of the prospective bride, paying the purchase price, and thus establishing the marriage covenant); second, the groom's returning to his father's house (which meant remaining separate from his bride for 12 months, during which time he prepared the living accommodations for his wife in his father's house); third, the groom's coming for his bride at a time not known exactly to her; fourth, his return with her to the groom's father's house to consummate the marriage and to celebrate the wedding feast for the next seven days (during which the bride remained closeted in her bridal chamber)."-

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/revelation/related-topics/the-jewish-wedding-analogy.html>

"However, since heaven is here pictured as the Father's *house*, it is more natural to think of 'dwelling-places' within a house as *rooms*"- D. A. Carson

With this in mind, we can see the words of Jesus take on a deeper meaning for the promise to his church as a whole, even if it is presently represented by these 11 men.

Jesus still has to pay the bride price, and this will take place on the cross. He comforts his disciples especially as "there is an implicit tie to Peter: if *his* faith is about to shatter, will the other disciples prove more stable in their trust? Small wonder the Eleven are profoundly upset"- D. A. Carson,

Jesus continues his message, "trust in me, and rely on my promises.", he shows that all that is to come, is under the control of God, not a poor reaction to Satanically backed human actions!

The promise is as strong and true today for us as believers in turbulent times. In the west we face a changing landscape. The position of privilege that church's have enjoyed is coming to an end. Those who will hold tight to the Gospel message will find their freedoms curtailed. This is to be expected. We are not to lose heart, but appreciate more the trust we place in the words and actions of Jesus.

"Can't see the wood for the trees"- Doubts, but this elephant has never forgotten

Thomas announces the feeling deep in the heart of the disciples, nope we don't know the way. Jesus now gives an answer which has become the centre point for his total ministry. ONLY through Jesus can the Father be reached. The disciples should however take heart, as Jesus declares they do not know the Father, because they know the Son. While they may be in distress, Jesus is fully confident all present will walk the dark road and come through to the light.

This statement of Jesus is the most problematic for many in the world, it allows no room for a second option. In a life style which increasingly promotes "believe what you want, it's all equally valid", Jesus words cut through this in sharp relief.

This conflicts with the popular "Blind Man and an Elephant" analogy

"There is a popular analogy used to show that all religions are valid ways to describe God. Religion professors especially love this philosophic analogy, because it equalizes all religions, making all religions equally "true" in their description of God.

The analogy is this: there are four blind men who discover an elephant. Since the men have never encountered an elephant, they grope about, seeking to understand and describe this new phenomenon. One grasps the trunk and concludes it is a snake. Another explores one of the elephant's legs and describes it as a tree. A third finds the elephant's tail and announces that it is a rope. And the fourth blind man, after discovering the elephant's side, concludes that it is, after all, a wall. Each in his blindness is describing the same thing: an elephant. Yet each describes the same thing in a radically different way. According to many, this is analogous to the different religions of the world -- they are describing the same thing in radically different ways. Thus one should conclude that no individual religion has a corner on truth, but that all should be viewed as essentially equally valid."

The argument of course falls down if we could ask the Elephant what it thought of itself! This is precisely what Jesus claims. As God, he knows exactly who he is, and has taken the time to assume a form (Human) to explain who he is to his creation. Two things need to be drawn from this.

- 1) The love that God has to PERMANENTLY become human.
- 2) The understanding that all other claimants are without merit on this topic.

this can cause great consternation, and can cause argument, but there is no escaping the simple but profound claim, only Jesus and his life can salvation be found. All other claimed paths to God are incorrect and simply lead to a dead end.

Holographic - It's all in the Angle.

The art of Holograph allows images to come 3d life, or for multiple images to be viewed depending on the angle one stands. It never ceases to amaze me, how three images can be contained in one picture and depending on your physical location

you can see each one uniquely, or a blend. No one objects or things this is impossible. Three differing images joined together. Each comes to the foreground or fades to the back as one changes our interaction to the hologram. NO one things that when they only can see one of the three picture that the other two cease to exist. We all know they are merely hidden. The Trinity of God is the same. Father, Son and Spirit, all ever present, but some come to the front more than others depending on our relationship to them. In this revelation Jesus is showing that the image of the Father is most profoundly represented in Jesus personally, and that the character of the Father is demonstrated by the Son. Jesus says, know me, know my Father.

The Old Testament, the scriptures for the Apostles all spoke of the coming Messiah, the anointed one, and Jesus fulfilled these prophecies, it is not until much later that Peter writes of his understanding about this time, in wonder at this power

1 Peter 1:10-12 (NLT) This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. 11 They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward.

12 They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.

- 1) The prophets predicted the coming of Christ.
- 2) The apostles and the early church preached Christ to everyone.
- 3) The angels long to understand the salvation Christ brings.
- 4) We now know what the prophets never knew, and we experience what the angels wish they knew.

This forth point should give us pause to realise the blessed time in which we live. What was hidden for so much of time has now been made clear, Jesus, with the Father, now has dealt with the sin of the world, and he gives us a promise we can do greater things than he.

This of course makes us wonder, What things?, Can we pray for anything and it will be done. To give framework for this we need to consider what things did Jesus spend his time doing?

What were the works Jesus spent his time doing?

Micah 6:8 (NLT)

"No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

Demonstrating Justice-

Offering Mercy-

Doing so in obedient humility to his Father's will.

He proclaimed the year of the Lord's favour (blessing) upon those who wished to repent and Establishing people into community

Greater in unity, "Better Together" - Synergy in Community.

We today are blessed to be able to carry this commission, empowered by the Holy Spirit,

III- Rescuing those from the kingdom of Darkness, through right living.