

Sermon Guide

Life of the Church: Holy Bride

On Sunday we were joined by our friend Theresa Dion, from After the Rain Christian Ministries. Theresa talked to us about what it means to be the holy bride of Christ.

If a ready bride is free, then a holy bride has consecrated herself to do the will of God.

Jesus is looking for faithfulness. He is looking for those who will continually receive His unending love, and respond in trust with obedience.

Agreeing with God's word is how you walk in holiness. You must first acknowledge your need for Him in order to be empowered by Him. It's not what we do that makes us holy, but who we are in Christ.

This holiness releases the power of God. If we want to see the kingdom come, we as the Church must increase in holiness.

Go Deeper.

Our desire is that every person would be empowered to have a deep and intimate relationship with God. We want people to not just hear a word on a Sunday, but get activated in whatever the Holy Spirit is doing throughout the week. The guide is a tool for you to dive deeper into what God is doing in you and through you as an ambassador of the Kingdom.

You can work through these activations and questions on your own or in a group setting. If you are doing them in a group, take turns leading. After each activation, take time to pray into whatever the Holy Spirit is speaking. It is also encouraged to have a journal and Bible with you.

For each activation focus will be key. We become like what we give our attention to, and one of the best ways to worship is to focus. Often we will ask that you close your eyes, if this helps you focus, then great, if it's something else that helps you focus, then do that.

Before each activation, take a moment to be still before the Lord. These are not exercises to rush through or items on a to-do list to check off. They are invitations to commune with God and to go deeper. Turn your attention toward Him and invite Him into this time.

Discussion

- Where in your life have you agreed with God and walked in freedom? Where do you still feel like you are not free?
- Do you believe that you need God? How would your life look different if you needed Him?

Activation #1

Jesus paid one sacrifice for our sins so that we would be made perfect forever. Positionally, we are holy before Him. All we need to do is believe what is true and come into agreement with what He says about us.

This week, prioritize being with your Father. Our oneness with Him is the key to holiness. When we get in His presence, letting Him speak the truth over us, we will believe and agree with Him. Disconnection is where we can fall into believing the lies of the enemy.

When you spend time with God, ask Him to speak to you about who you are and how He sees you.

Write down what you hear.

From that place, ask Him to show you where you've been making agreements with the enemy.

Write down what you hear.

Once He has identified the lies, ask Holy Spirit to speak the truth over those lies and tell God that you agree with Him and not with the enemy.

End by thanking Him for His love and ask that He would continue to teach you to believe.

Activation #2

The enemy's desire is that Christians would remain powerless and distracted. So as Christians, relationship and connection with God must be our priority.

Get your journal out and ask Holy Spirit to reveal to you what secular things are distracting you from the presence of God?

Write down what you hear.

Next ask Him what you need to abstain from in order to better prioritize His presence and open up space in your heart and mind for Him.

Finish this time by writing down what you intend to abstain from and make a commitment to God. Say, "Jesus, I believe that our marriage covenant is the most important covenant in my life. This means that I desire to cut out anything that is hindering intimacy. I believe that being in your presence and walking in your power is the best place for me to be. I cannot do this on my own Jesus so please help me, I need you!"

Ways to Pray

- That we would see people in our town come to know Jesus!
- That our people would be hungry for fresh outpourings of His Presence and for the fruits of the Spirit.
- That we would agree with what God says about us and therefore walk in authority and power.
- That there would be an increase in bridal love for Jesus that leads to unprecedented consecration and holiness in the Church.