

God's Dream Lesson 5

- a. One Sentence Summary: God's dream is for Jesus to be the center of our lives which results in God's greatest glory and our greatest joy in Him.

i. Introduction

1. Purpose- God's dream... Why did God create anything, and what is He trying to do for all eternity?
2. Review- Core Principles
 - a. The first is that God created us and everything around us to live out and to show off His grace forever and ever and ever. We linked that grace to glory so we figured God was seeking to live out and show off His glory. We pulled this out of Ephesians 2:6 and 7 as well as Exodus 33.
 - b. God wants to bring all things together under His Son Jesus. God is exalting Him and giving Him preeminence to all things. Therefore, all things were created by Him and through Him and for Him.
 - c. We saw specifically that all nations are to be a part of His rule and reign. People from every tongue, every tribe and every nation are to bring glory to His son. When this happens, His greatness will shine the most.

ii. Body

- a. Now, we are going to look at the third part of God's dream, In answering that question, we are going to talk about weddings.
 - i. Bob tells about a story about a couple named Greg and Natasha. Suppose at the wedding ceremony Natasha tells Greg she is only marrying him for security, money, and insurance and will be going out with other guys.
 - ii. This scenario parallels what is happening in Christianity. We are to be the bride of Christ. We are to be wed to Him, We are to cherish Him, worship Him, and delight in Him...
 - iii. This is how a bride acts.
Now, We are the bride of Christ. This is what the Scriptures teach us.
Matthew 22:2 says, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.
 - iv. God is the king. Jesus is His son. And there's going to be a wedding for Him. We are the bride.
 - v. Revelation 19:7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."
 - vi. Isaiah 62:5 (the second part) And *as* the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, *So* your God will rejoice over you.

- vii. We are to be the bride of Christ! In some mysterious, wonderful way, believers from around the globe will somehow be one and become the bride of Christ.
- viii. But wouldn't it be terrible if we rejoiced in something or someone greater than the one we are betrothed to?
 1. If we go to be with our Lord and basically say to Him: I'll worship you there. I'll praise you there. I'll speak well of you there. But I've got to tell you, when it comes to being holy the other six days of the week, I'm not into that too much.
 2. And with regard to actually meeting with you, I really don't want to spend much time at all with you.
 3. You don't really excite me. You don't turn me on. You don't fill me with passion or joy. Actually, meeting with you is kind of boring. My quiet times are really blasé.
 4. There are so many other things do... like surfing the internet, or watching TV or going to the movies and then there's all the sports things I like to do... Those things stir my soul and get me excited. But when we have to meet, I'd like to make it short. And... I don't really want to talk about your agenda; I want to talk about my agenda... what you can do for me. What you can give me.
 5. And how you can take care of all of my problems. You see, I've got lots of hurts over the years; I grew up so dysfunctional... There are lots of things you can do for me.
 6. Wow, God, thanks for listening to me because this is really helping me think through things clearly.
 7. You see, I'm realizing, I really don't want you, I just want your blessings and what you can do for me. This is wonderful. "I Do"
 8. How would that make Jesus feel?

Jesus has made an unconditional commitment to us so that no matter how we treat Him, His love for us will always be there. It will be constant and unchanging.
 9. Yet, loving Jesus for what He can give us, and not for whom He is, doesn't show Him as the prize of all eternity. If there are other things that delight us more, they are the prize! But, what if we did love Him, if we found our greatest joy in

Him, and cherished Him more than anyone or anything else?; and chose to spend time with Him, simply because He delights us.

11. That would show Him to be the most precious prize above anyone or anything else.
- ix. This would position Him as the greatest treasure that could ever be found! And that lines up with what the father is doing. That lines up with the second part of the dream...God wanting to exalt His son.
- b. Third principle- God wants us to primarily rejoice in Him more than anyone or anything else in this world. He wants our joy to be full and He wants our joy primarily in Him... more than things, more than other people, more than in our family, more than in our spouse, more than in any sport or activity.
 - i. The scriptures help us see that this is what being a Christian is all about, when it speaks about the kingdom of God in Matthew 13:44. It says, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his JOY went and sold all he had and bought that field.
 - ii. This person found something so wonderful, so marvelous, so valuable, they realized, "Anything that I own doesn't even compare to this. I need to sell all I have in order to get that treasure."
- c. The treasure of God's kingdom...finding Jesus, must far surpass all the value of all the possessions we have.
- d. Finding God should be like finding a treasure, He should be our treasure and our joy, that which fills us up, that which satisfies us the most.
- e. This is what Christianity is supposed to be about. Finding God is to be more valuable than anything in this world. Not only does the bible say, "This is supposed to be typical of Christianity," God commands us to be happy.
 - i. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16 and 17 we read: Be joyful always. That is a command. Be joyful always. It later goes on to say "pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances..."
 - ii. In His letter to the Philippians, he says, "Finally my brothers, rejoice IN THE LORD."
 - iii. Here, he clearly states it, our Joy is to be in God. Our primary sense of life, of joy, of peace, of happiness, needs to be in God!
 - iv. Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart."
- f. God wants our joy "Primarily in Him" Why? God knows that life is full of joys. He says it so himself.
- g. 1 Timothy 6:17: Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty

- of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all *things* to enjoy.
- h. God has no problems with giving us things that we enjoy. In fact James chapter 1 in the 17th verse tells us “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”
 - i. God gives us all things. He wants us to enjoy them.
 - j. But He doesn’t want them to be our primary source of Joy. Again, the key word is “primary”
 - k. This is why the Scriptures can say “Rejoice in the Lord” but at the same time say in Luke 14:26, If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. The scriptures are not telling us to “hate them”. The word can easily be translated “be indifferent to” or “by comparison”. In other words, Jesus is saying, “Your love for me needs to be so great, that in comparison, the love you have for your father, your mother, your children, your brothers and sisters, even your own life, needs to be like “Hate” ...to take a far distant second place.”
 - l. When our Joy is primarily in God and we chose Jesus and delight in Him more than anyone or anything else in the world, when what He has to offer is far superior to other pleasure, when we cherish Him above and beyond all, when we value what He stands for, and we want to spend time with Him, simply for who He is, then we place Him rightfully in the center of all things, giving Him the glory and honor that He deserves as the creator and sustainer and giver of life to all things.
 - m. Finding our joy and delight in God) goes hand in hand with what God the Father is seeking to do in the second part of the dream: To exalt His son, placing all things under His feet, allowing Him to be the joy of creation.
 - n. How strong should our joy be in the Lord? Strong enough to get us through the tough times. Listen to Habakkuk 3:17: “Though the fig tree should not blossom. And there be no fruit on the vines, *Though* the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold. And there be no cattle in the stalls..., That is talking about a pretty dismal time when all of your crops are gone, there is no food remaining, and you have no more animals left... and the future doesn’t look good.
 - o. Yet I will exult in the LORD,
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.
 - p. You know, when the world sees believers praising God when things are going right, it brings God glory and some notice it.

- q. But what really speaks to them, is when things get tough, when all seems lost, and then we are still praising the Lord, that is when the world takes notice. Why? Our treasure which is Christ, is that which we delight in the most, is far greater to us than anything this world has for us.
- r. This places Jesus Christ as the most valuable, prized possession for all eternity!
- s. God's desire for us to have Joy is not only for us as believers, but for the nations as well.
 - i. Psalm 67: 3-4 Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the world be glad and sing for joy.
 - ii. Psalm 66:1-2. Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; 2 singing the glory of His name; Make His praise glorious.
 - iii. Psalm 97: 1 The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; Let the many islands be glad.
- t. In the heart of World Evangelization is the idea of Joy. We are going out to give them JOY in Jesus Christ. "GO therefore and make disciples of all nations" is about making people happy!
- u. Now I want you to notice how the three parts of the dream all weave together.
 - i. In Isaiah 24- In His judgment, He says there will be a remnant who will follow Him. And that remnant shall be faithful to tell others about the goodness of God. verse 14- They raise their voices, they shout for joy; They cry out from the west concerning the majesty of the LORD.¹⁵ Therefore glorify the LORD in the east. As there is judgment all around them, they (and we) can have joy, though terrible things are happening. But take a careful look at the word "Therefore". That connects the thought before it with the thought that is about to follow. "Therefore, Glorify God in the east." In other words, as you find joy in God, you are glorifying God.
 - ii. There is the link. Joy in God brings Him glory just as a bride having an undistracted joy and passion for the groom honors the groom.
 - iii. Make no mistake about it. God wants you happy. And He wants His true believers to have their Joy FULL...primarily in Him. And as a result, they will glorify God. This is the third and final part of God's dream.

iii. Conclusion: Review

1. God, from the very beginning of time has dreamed up a scenario where He can live out and reveal His glory.
2. That scenario places His son as the center of all things, wanting all to cherish and worship Him.
3. And as we do that, our fullest joy will be birthed and God will get the greatest glory and we will get the greatest joy!

4. This is the heart of the dream. This is the heart of “The Journey”.