

Jesus Christ

Part 2

Welcome Back

Greatest gift

Picture a perfect present. Is it neatly wrapped with beautiful paper? Is there a charming coordinating bow? Does the person giving you the gift matter more than the gift itself? There is a tremendous amount of pressure on us to think of the perfect gift for family and friends around Christmas time. The expectations to find, buy, wrap, and give thoughtful gifts to those we love seems inescapable despite the many efforts to focus on the true meaning of the season. Sadly, many of us are swept away in the misconception that the gifts' price tags matters most. I'm not sure how gift-giving became so central to Christmas traditions, but when the commercialism and pretense are stripped away, I do believe gift-giving can be an expression of God's kindness and love. Our most loving, awesome, holy God so wholly loved the world that He gave the best possible gift—Himself. No greater present exists than Christ's presence.

Take the time to read the Amplified Version of John 3:16:

For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life.

We have much to learn from God's heart. May we treasure the gifts He has given us, especially our time with Him. Let us find ourselves intentionally devoting our time to Him, to worship Him, to serve Him, and to love Him. May our intentional devotion pour into the way we love one another and invest in our relationships—relationships that are His gifts.

Part 1 of 1

Pray and review the questions from the Introduction.

1. Which of your questions regarding Jesus has (have) been answered? Write any new questions you may have.
2. What steps have you taken to deepen your relationship with the Lord since beginning this study?
3. In which areas of your character have you seen the most growth?
4. Write a prayer of praise to the Lord for revealing Himself to you.

Jesus Christ

Deliverer

Lesson 6

Redeemed

The online Merriam-Webster dictionary defines *deliverer* as “one that saves from danger or destruction” (synonyms: liberator, protector, redeemer, rescuer, savior). Have you noticed how many of Christ’s names apply to our need for deliverance? He is the Father to the fatherless & Defender of the widow before they’re abandoned. (Proverbs 68:5) He is our Advocate before we realize we’re defenseless. (1 John 2:1) He is our Bright & Morning Star before we know we’re in darkness. (Revelation 22:16) He is our Redeemer before we’re aware of our bondage. (Romans 11:26) Christ—Creator of the universe, All-Powerful, All-Knowing— preemptively names Himself as the One Who fills all our emptiness and satisfies our need with Himself. What humility; what love!

All of Scripture demonstrates His deliverance. More often than not redemption comes in an unexpected way. One of my favorite Biblical rescue accounts is found in Daniel 3, where three godly men refuse to bow down to a golden image. King Nebuchadnezzar is furious and sentences them to the fiery furnace. The men must choose whether to obey and trust God, or to cower and bow down to the idol. Note their faith as recorded in verses 16-18:

*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. **But if not**, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."* (emphasis mine)

O, that my heart would so trust my Lord! These men had no idea that deliverance would come because the Deliverer would come in the midst of the furnace (v. 21-27) Take heart! Our Deliverer is coming!

Part 1 of 3

Pray and read Mark 9:14-29

1. A father comes to Christ. What need does he present to the Lord (v. 17-18)?
2. Read Matthew 17:15. What was the father's first request?

How does Matthew's gospel account describe the son's condition?

3. Imagine the heaviness this parent faced. How might he have felt after the disciples could not cast out the evil spirit? (Mark 9:18)

Now imagine how he felt when his son convulsed as they brought him to Jesus (v. 20).
What might the father have been thinking as he painfully watches his son on the ground?

4. Jesus asked the father a question, though He knows all things. How does this conversation show Christ's love and compassion?

How does the father's answer provide the background information to give God all the glory for his son's deliverance?

5. Verses 25-27 describe a chaotic scene, but Who remains in control of everything? How is His power to deliver manifested in this account?

Personal Application: We do not know the name of this son or of his father, yet Mark so beautifully records this father's heart. Re-read verses 23-24. Does this father's response echo in your heart? Write down a time you've faced when your cry was, "Lord I believe, help my unbelief."

How did the Lord deliver you? Write down a prayer of gratitude and worship to your Deliverer.

6. Jesus explains to His disciples that the boy's condition went beyond the physical into a spiritual case. Interestingly enough, Luke, the physician, adds little commentary of this account, further highlighting the weight of the spiritual warfare involved (Luke 9:37-42). What does Christ teach about victory in these spiritual battles (v. 29)?

Part 2 of 3

Pray and read Luke 8:26-39

1. Right before this encounter, Jesus and his disciples were caught up in a storm. Luke records, (v.24) “Then He [Jesus] arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm.” The word translated to *rebuked* has been used when Jesus commanded an evil spirit to leave a person (Mat. 17:18; Mar. 1:25). The word is also used when Christ corrects Peter because Satan influenced his charge to avoid the cross (Mar. 8:33) Why might the storm have been the enemy trying to prevent Christ and his disciples from reaching the land of the Gadarenes? Of what does Christ calming the storm assure us?
2. What were some of the self-destructive behaviors this demon-possessed man exhibited because of bondage (v. 27,29; Mark 5:5)? Seeing the result of the demons entering the pigs, what were they likely trying to do to the man before Christ delivered him?
3. Imagine this man’s testimony (v. 35). How did his deliverance prepare him to obey Christ even when his desire was not granted (v.38-39)?

Part 3 of 3

Context: Christ's coming to this earth as the Deliverer for all mankind was promised since the very beginning (Genesis 3:15). There are many appearances, prophecies, types, and shadows of Christ in the Old Testament, some of which we read in Part 1-Jesus in the Old Testament. Isaiah 59 speaks of the two-fold coming of Christ. The first time to save His people from their sins through His work on the cross; the second time, the one we await, will be when He delivers the world in the ultimate victory over the enemy. For this section, we will focus on Christ as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

Pray and read Isaiah 59:1-2, 16-21

1. God's people were wondering why the Lord seemed far away and why salvation was not present. How does the Lord, through Isaiah, answer their questions?

Why is it crucial that we do not forget that the Lord does not change, that He is all-powerful and all-loving?

2. Verse 16 begins with the bleak statement that there was "no man... no intercessor." How does this point to the hopelessness of the world in sin?

How easy it is for us to blame our problems on everything except our iniquities! We will even blame God before seeing that the problem is with us! We will deny who God is before seeing that the problem is with us!

-David Guzik

O Lord! Deliver us from this thinking; open our eyes to our iniquities and lead us to repentance.

3. Verse 16 continues with, “Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him.” In Psalm 8:3, David, as prompted by the Holy Spirit, writes that the heavens, the moon, and the stars are the work of God’s fingertips. Now here in Isaiah, we see that salvation was the work of God’s arm. How do these descriptions speak of the weight of salvation’s work?

4. How does verse 17 hint to Paul’s description of the armor of God in Ephesians 6:10-18? Why would the Lord command us to take up His armor?

5. What is the end of all victories? In other words, what two things does the Lord accomplish when He defeats sin and the enemy (v.19)?

6. To whom does the Redeemer come? What marks His people?

7. What is God’s covenant with this people—those who turn from their transgression (v. 21)?

Jesus Christ

Servant of All

Lesson 7

Heart of a *doulos*

What glory can there be in the life of a servant? If I were to answer by my first impulse, I'd say none, zero, *nada*. A servant simply meets the needs of her master, often living in anonymity and scarcity. How can a heart find contentment in serving a powerful and affluent employer when her life is filled with hard work and plainness? Once again, God so gently corrects my initial and faulty conclusions through the freeing truth of Scripture. Acts 3:13a reads, "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus..." Jesus humbled Himself to become the Servant of all; His life on earth was characterized by anonymity, scarcity, hard work and plainness, but verse after verse mentions God declaring Christ, His Son and His Servant, as glorified.

Upon closer examination, we find that Jesus is not the only servant who is given special honor. Christ's very first miracle was revealed primarily to servants. "His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." ... When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (**but the servants who had drawn the water knew**), the master of the feast called the bridegroom." John 2:5,9 (emphasis mine) What a glorious thought—the King of kings, Lord of lords, Creator of the universe came to serve! Perhaps because of this, the first expression of His power was recognizable to those with a similar heart—servants. I have much to learn.

It's a basic law of the kingdom of God that the servants who know how poor they are become the richest, and those who give the most receive the most and therefore have the most to give.

Warren Wiersbe

Part 1 of 3

Pray and read Philippians 2:1-11

1. Re-read verse 1-2. Do you believe unity is possible without Christ? Explain.
2. How does pride prevent true fellowship and oneness? (v. 3-4)
3. Paul emphasizes that humility was Christ's mindset. He also urges us to have the same mind as Christ. How did Jesus express His humility according to verses 5-8?
4. The original Greek word for servant in verse 7 is *doulos*. Biblical usage includes: bondservant. a slave, bondman, man of servile condition; metaphorically, one who gives himself up to another's will those whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing his cause among men; devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests; a servant, attendant (G1401 - *doulos* - Strong's Greek Lexicon (NKJV). Retrieved from <https://www.blueletterbible.org>) How did Christ show He became a bondservant while on the earth?
5. The Father further glorifies Christ for taking up the office of a servant and becoming obedient to the point of death on the cross. How will all creation eventually respond to Christ?

Part 2 of 3

Pray and read John 13:1-17

1. The chapter begins with expressing Christ's awareness of the things which were about to take place. Knowing that He would soon be crucified, how is it clear that love motivated him to wash His disciples' feet?

To the end means a love that reaches to the fullest extent. Some translations have "He loved them to the uttermost." Jesus poured out the cup of His love to the bottom for us.

David Guzik

2. Jesus humbles Himself to complete a task reserved for the lowliest of servants—washing feet. How is his authority still expressed?
3. As Christ corrects Peter, He teaches that only once we are cleansed by Jesus may we have fellowship with Him. Why is it necessary to be cleansed before we may enter into fellowship with Christ?
4. Verse 12-14 Jesus commands His disciples (we are included in that audience) to wash each other's feet. Do you think it is a literal command? What could "wash one another's feet" represent?

Part 3 of 3

Pray and read Mark 9:33-37

1. It is important to note that Jesus does not discourage His disciples from desiring to be great. He corrects them from having disputes over greatness and shows them what they ought to do instead. Why should Christ's disciples desire greatness in the Kingdom of God?
2. Jesus's teaching—the way to be first is by being last and the servant of all—appears as a paradox (seeming contradiction). How does the follower of Christ through surrender and becoming a servant of all (that is more like Christ) find the greatest fulfillment?
3. Throughout the New Testament, believers are encouraged to become child-like in their faith and devotion to the Lord. What does it mean to be child-like in humility?

Personal Application: The world has completely inverted the truth of the kingdom of God, showcasing that the only way to be great is to look out for your own interest, take care of yourself, and achieve greatness on your own. How have some of these lies found their way into your thinking? How can you guard your heart against these attacks?

Jesus Christ

I AM

Lesson 8

What's missing?

The following is an excerpt of a sermon Billy Graham preached at Pure Heart Church, in Shanghai, China, April 24, 1988.

The mighty God of the universe calls Himself I AM. In Exodus 3:14, the Bible says, "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM" (KJV). Moses had said, "When I go down to Egypt and the people ask me who sent me, what shall I tell them" (Cf. Exodus 3:13). God said, "You tell them that I AM sent you." Jesus completed the statement that was given to Moses. Seven times in the Gospel of John He uses the expression, "I am." ... A doctor in America said some time ago that more people die of loneliness and guilt and depression and insecurity and heart hunger than die of physical starvation. Bread in the Bible is the symbol of spiritual life. People all over the world are the same; they have an inborn hunger for something, and that something is Christ. People cannot be satisfied with anything less than Christ. Jesus said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven" (Cf. John 6:33). "If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever" (John 6:51)

What is your need? For what does your heart yearn? In what way does your soul ache to be filled? The Lord Jesus Christ promises to fulfill your need, to satisfy your heart, and to heal your soul with Himself. [Read that sentence again.] Paul expresses in 2 Corinthians 12:9, that Christ is enough, "And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.'" May we live, think, feel, act, and speak knowing, believing and trusting that Jesus is our All in All!

Part 1 of 3 “Bread of Life”

Pray and read John 6:24-38, 41-43, 47-51

1. Notice the audience of Christ’s first I AM statement recorded in John (v. 25-26). Knowing they were not truly seeking Jesus but seeking only their physical comfort, why does it follow that they complained about His teachings (v. 41)
2. Jesus likens Himself to the manna from Heaven which sustained the children of Israel for forty years in the wilderness. God’s people rejected His manna. Don Smith writes:

After Israel passed through the Red Sea, they faced the first of many overwhelming obstacles, including food to sustain a rag-tag multitude of over a million people. This was a moment for “Jehovah Jireh” to act on behalf of His people...I want you to remember how Israel rejected God’s provision of manna from heaven...Many Bible scholars estimate the multitude in the wilderness to be upwards of two million people. Now think about this—six pints of manna was to be collected for every person! That would be twelve million pints every day. It would take ten trains, each pulling thirty box-cars filled with manna every day to feed this multitude. Now multiply that by forty years and you can see the incredible blessing God showered upon them. Bread from heaven was always more than each person needed and yet they complained and grumbled.

How is rejecting manna similar to the Jews (and many others) rejecting Christ?

3. Jesus could have compared Himself to any aspect of life, yet the Spirit-lead Son obeyed the word of the Father and specifically spoke, teaching, “I AM the bread of Life.” Why bread? Record comparisons in the chart below between physical bread and our Lord:

| Physical Bread | Jesus, “the Bread of Life” |
|---|---|
| e.g. universal element of food in cultures world-wide | e.g. He is the Savior for humanity world-wide |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Part 2 of 3 “Light of the World”

Pray and read John 8:1-12, 9:1-7

Note: Christ’s next I AM statement recorded in John takes place after hypocritical leaders interrupt His teaching in order to try trapping Him. Their wicked attempt sought to fault Jesus by pinning Him between the Law of Moses (sin punishable by death), the Roman law (Jews no longer had the right to execution) and the Law of love (Jesus taught forgiveness, repentance, and restoration). Soon after, in the gospel of John (9), Christ literally brings light to a blind man. In the very next chapter (10), Jesus celebrate Hanukkah “festival of lights” (in Scripture called the Feast of Dedication—v. 22) As the light of the world, Jesus reveals motives, frees from the bondage of sin, heals the blind, and guides with His grace and control, even thousands of years later. 🎵“Light of the world / You stepped down into darkness / Opened my eyes, let me see”🎵

1. Jesus ignores the accusers and stoops down (v.6). He was not caught up in their attempt to use this woman as a weapon against Him and His ministry. How do His silence and posture reveal His both authority and humility?
2. Notice how Jesus treats the woman caught in sin. He is both gentle and forgiving while at the same time direct and just. How does His character reveal ways that Jesus is the Light?
3. In John 9, Jesus proclaims once again that He is the light of the world. He then brings sight to a man born in blindness. Compare Christ’s miraculous healing of this blind man with His miraculous salvation to lost souls. Give at least two examples.

How do both physical healing from blindness and spiritual salvation for lost souls reveal that Jesus is the light of the world?

Personal Application: John 9 records a question believers asked throughout time: “Who sinned, this man or his parents, that [*something bad happened to him*]?” (interpretation mine). Often times, I’ve been caught up in different forms of this “either-or” question. It is all too easy for me to attribute comfort and ease as blessings from God and to attribute challenges and difficulties as punishments from God. Christ’s response echoes in the heart disciples earnestly asking Him throughout the ages: “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.” The blind man’s ailment in this case was not the result of sin, but its cause rested in the fact that God desired to reveal His glory through him.

Have you ever faced or known someone who faced a difficult situation that was not the result of sin? Write down a brief description. *[Note: The Bible teaches that death and hardships are the general result of sin. While there are also specific curses and consequences associated with direct disobedience and sinful choices against God’s commands, this question asks you to think about a situation that is hard (which is likely the general result of living in a sinful world) but not the specific curse or consequence of an individual’s sin.]*

How does knowing God desires to reveal His works through that difficulty bring comfort in the midst of the difficulty?

Part 3 of 3 “The True Vine”

Pray and read John 15:1-17

Note: Because each of the “I AM” statements John records is so rich, we will divide the seven statements into two studies. We have looked at the first two statements, and now skip ahead to the last one. Statements 3-6 will be covered in our next lesson.

1. How many times do the words “abide” and “remain” appear in these verses? (Both words are translated from the same greek word.)

Personal Application: Repetition is used for emphasis. The outline of Biblical usage includes the following points for these words: to remain, abide

- A. (in reference to place) to sojourn, tarry, not to depart, to continue to be present, to be held, kept, continually
- B. (in reference to time) to continue to be, not to perish, to last, endure
- C. (of persons) to survive, live
- D. (in reference to state or condition) to remain as one, not to become another or different

Reflecting on your walk with the Lord, think of two situations when you did or did not abide, remain in the Lord. Was it in reference to place, time, persons or state/condition? What was the fruit (result) from the situation? What did you learn? What do you hope others could learn from your experience? Fill out the chart below.

| ABIDE (YES/NO) | SITUATION IN MY WALK WITH THE LORD | REFERENCE | FRUIT (RESULT) | LESSONS LEARNED |
|----------------|------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

2. How would you describe the relationship between a branch and the vine (life-giving source of a plant)? How does connection represent the believers relationship to the Lord?

The Christian has a unique relationship with his Lord: Other religions may offer high ideals, only Christianity offers the capacity to attain.

Chuck Smith

3. Christ teaches that the branches which bear fruit are “pruned” or cleansed, purged. Why would the vinedresser (farmer) prune branches that are fulfilling their purpose in bearing fruit?

How can a believer’s understanding of this cleansing help her as the Father is bring about His work?

4. Remembering the first I Am statement, “I Am the Bread of Life” and connecting it with the last recorded I Am statement in John, “I am the true Vine,” how are these analogies similar to the elements found in communion?

How do these statements point to Christ’s desire to be closer to you?

Jesus Christ

I AM

Lesson 9

More Abundantly

If one were to look to the world for purpose and meaning to life, it wouldn't take long for her to realize that despite all its glamor and flair, the world does not have the answer. Those with a sarcastic side have found ways to capitalize on this irony by creating "funny" t-shirts, memes, and bumper stickers. I had a classmate in highschool who often wore a black t-shirt with the words, "Eat Healthy. Exercise Well. Die Anyway." printed in large, white letters. And while I must admit that this dark humor can sometimes cause a small smirk to creep across my face, I often find myself praying for her. I have no idea where she is. We rode on the same school bus my senior year. We had the chance to talk about the Lord at times. I was shocked when she accepted my invitation and actually came to a church outreach. Imagine my delight when she nodded her head and walked to the front after I asked if she wanted me to go up with her during the altar call. I wonder what kind of ground the seed found as it fell on her heart. There was little change in her life. No visible fruit, but I hold on to the promise that His Word does not come back void. May she learn and believe *that Christ came that [she] may have life, and that [she] may have it more abundantly* (John 10:10b), wherever she may be.

Aren't you thankful that as a believer, you don't have to turn to the world for purpose and meaning? Are you rejoicing because you've learned that there's more to life? Doesn't your heart break for this lost world? May our hearts have eyes to see as Christ did in Matthew 9:36, " But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd."

Part 1 of 3 “Door” and “The Good Shepherd”

Pray and read John 10:1-18

1. Jesus teaches this portion with a contrast. What is the behavior of “thief,” “stranger,” and “hireling”? Describe the Shepherd. How is sheep’s reaction to the Shepherd different than to everyone else? Fill out the chart.

| | Descriptions (verses) | Sheep’s Reaction (verses) |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Shepherd | | |
| Thief | | |
| Stranger | | |
| Hireling | | |

Why is it important to know what the Shepherd is not? Why is it important to recognize imposters (thief, stranger, and hireling)?

2. David Guzik comments on these verses: “

*Jesus used another picture from sheep farming in His time. Out in the pasturelands for sheep, pens were made with only one entrance. **The door** for those sheep pens **was the shepherd himself**. He laid his body across the entrance, to keep the sheep in and to keep out the wolves. The shepherd was in fact the door. [emphasis added]*

How is Christ, the Door, protective both by keeping in His sheep (us) and by keeping out wolves (spiritual enemies)?

Part 2 of 3 “The Resurrection and the Life” “The Way, the Truth, and the Life”

Read John 11:21-27; 14:1-9

1. Death is not the final word for those in Christ. Martha had faith to know that in eternity, her brother would live. She lacked the faith to see that Christ was going to do a great work on this side of eternity, that very same day. What hope does eternal life give the believer for today?
2. Note the first two words of John 14 in the New King James Version, “Let not.” The Biblical use outline for “Let” in the original Greek includes the following points:

to agitate, trouble a thing, by the movement of its parts to and fro); to cause one inward commotion, take away calmness of mind; to disquiet, make restless; to stir up; to trouble; to strike one's spirit with fear and dread; to render anxious or distressed; to perplex the mind of one by suggesting scruples or doubts

What can cause our hearts to “let” them be troubled? How can we safeguard against these causes?
3. Jesus is the source of all truth and knowledge about God, and He shows us the way to live in this truth. Why does this bring comfort?

Personal Application: Think about Heaven. Do you believe that Jesus is preparing a place for you? How should this affect your life here and now?

The entire focus of heaven is being united with Jesus. Heaven is heaven not because of streets of gold, or pearly gates, or even the presence of angels. Heaven is heaven because Jesus is there.

-David Guzik

Part 3 of 3 Summary

Pray

1. F.E. Marsh writes:

When we have the “I Am” as our Commissioner, we have all He is, all He has, and all He can do... It seems as if the Lord said, “Whatever you need, I, the great I Am, will supply it.” The Jesus of the New Testament is the Jehovah of the Old Testament.

Are we hungry? He says, “I Am the Bread of Life” (6:35, 41, 48, 51).

Are we dark? He says, “I Am the Light of the world” (8:12).

Do we need an open way to God? He says, “I Am the Way” (14:6).

Do we want an entrance into blessing? He says, “I Am the Door” (10:7, 9).

Do we need a substitute? He says, “I Am the Good Shepherd, who giveth His life for the sheep” (10:11, 14).

Do we need life? Christ says, “I Am the Life” (14:6).

Do we need truth? Christ says, “I am the Truth” (14:6).

Do we need fruitfulness? He says, “I Am the True Vine” (15:1, 5).

Is it a question of raising our loved ones? He says, “I Am the Resurrection” (11:25).

Which of these questions most applies to you today?

2. Now go back through Lessons 8-9. Choose the “I Am” statement which applies to your response in question 1. Read those verses again. Write down what the Lord speaks to your heart.

Commit to memory the “I Am” verse which you studied today.

Jesus Christ

Summary

Lesson 10

The Bridegroom is Coming

The only thing that survived from Eden after man's fall is marriage. (No wonder worldly forces are constantly trying to pervert God's institution of the sacred relationship between one man and one woman.) When marriage is examined through biblical lenses, we see the perfect beauty of God's love for us, the precious promise of Christ to one day return for us, and the preserving seal of the Holy Spirit upon us, His bride. Understanding Jewish wedding traditions during biblical times can help enhance our understanding of the beautiful analogy between marriage and the relationship God establishes with His people. The first step involved the betrothal (the prospective groom traveled from his father's house to the home of the prospective bride, paying the purchase price) and establishing the marriage covenant. Secondly, the son returns to his father's house and prepares the bridal chamber. Meanwhile the bride waits, for at anytime unbeknownst to her, her groom may send for her. Next, at a time determined by the father, the groom calls and gathers the bride to bring her to his father's house. At this point, just prior to the wedding ceremony the bride undergoes ritual cleansing. Finally, the wedding ceremony takes place. But this is not the end. The final step in Jewish weddings during biblical times was the Marriage Feast, a celebratory feast to which many are invited and which typically lasted several days.

My friends, does your mind and heart leap for joy in reviewing all the connections? God the Father chose us to be the bride for His son; He paid a dear price—the life of Christ—to purchase us. At any time, He will send for us; we'll be dressed in His righteousness, cleansed forever, celebrating for all eternity. I. CANNOT. WAIT. Who knows when His call for us will come? Perhaps today?

Part 1 of 2

Read Revelation 19:4-9

1. Re-read verse 5, why does fearing the Lord and serving Him go hand in hand?
2. Think of the ways a bride prepares herself for her wedding day. Compare each way she prepares herself to the way a believer can prepare herself for the coming of the Lord. Fill out the chart below.

| Bride Prepares Herself | Believer Prepares Herself for Christ |
|---|--|
| i.e. her thoughts are consumed with the wedding day | i.e. her thoughts always go back to the fact that Christ is coming for her |
| | |
| | |
| | |

3. Amen is the most universal word. It is pronounced similarly and has the same definition in almost every language. Alleluia is also a universal word; it means “praise ye Yahweh, an adoring exclamation.” Why is it fitting that these words would be said in Heaven?
4. How has the Lord shown you that is a blessing to be called to the marriage supper of the Lamb?

