

THE NARROW ROAD

Contending for the Holiness of God

On the narrow road, at some point, God rocks our world and everything changes. It is never the same again. The course of our life changes drastically, with one purpose: to qualify us to be His Son's Bride. A Bride who will reign with Him for all of eternity.

VESSELS OF NOBLE USE

JOHN 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from, the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

The Third Day

In John, chapter 2, we see in Yeshua's first miracle, turning the water into wine, at the wedding in Cana of Galilee how He revealed our Father's eternal purposes for mankind by declaring the end from the beginning. Galilee in Hebrew means "revealing." Everything Yeshua does is with eternal purpose. And He was letting everyone know, from the very first miracle, how it is going to end. That a transfiguration and a Wedding

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is going to take place in vessels who had made themselves ready.¹

REVELATION 19:7

Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

Why is it significant that the wedding took place on the third day? It foreshadows the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, in Revelation 19. And the Lord is letting us know that there is a transformation that is going to take place on the 'third day' for those who are prepared.

For it was on the third day when Yeshua was transformed with resurrection power and rose from the dead, bringing newness and fullness of Life to those who would believe. The third day speaks of the hour that we are in on this earth, and that the Lord's return is rapidly approaching. That there is a day coming when resurrection power is going to be poured into vessels, who have made themselves ready, transforming them. But in order for that transformation to take place, there must first be a death to self within our souls. For a resurrection can only take place, after a death has occurred. As Yeshua died to His will, the Father's will was manifested through His life.

LUKE 22:42

...Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.

When the Lord led Peter, James and John up the mountain of transfiguration, He was revealing to them how a death to self was going to end—a glorious transfiguration, for those who will be the Bride of Messiah—the Lamb's Wife. For it is in those vessels, who He is going to fill with the indwelling of the Seven Spirits of the Lord, the power that raised Him from the dead. The 'power of the ages to come' that Paul speak of in Hebrews, Chapter 6 [Revelation 19:7-9, 21:9, Isaiah 11:2, Hebrews 6:5].

MARK 9:2-3

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.

In Mark 9:9-10, Yeshua warns His disciples not to tell anyone what they had seen, until He had risen from the dead. They could not understand what He was talking about. Their lack of understanding, I believe, is two-fold. First, they did not grasp that, literally, He was going to have to die, in order to be raised to life. Secondly, they did not grasp the 'spiritual' transfiguration that would take place in those who would follow His lead by dying to self. That, ultimately, He would have a company of people—the Overcomer's, who would reign with Him. For that is His eternal plan: to have a Bride who will reign with Him during the Millennium Reign.

2 TIMOTHY 2:12 KJV

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

Waterpots

As we look closer, at the wedding in Cana, we can see that there are several things that the Lord is revealing to us, and those things have significant spiritual meaning for us today:

1. There were six stone waterpots. Biblically, the number six represents man.

2. The waterpots were stone, and not clay. Why is that important? In ancient Israel, they had a lot of clay pots, as clay is a porous material that can easily become contaminated. And when that happened, the pots had to be destroyed. Stone is pure and cannot become unclean. *To contend for the holiness of God to permeate our lives, we must not allow compromise and mixture into our lives that will contaminate our walk with the Lord.*

3. We see the waterpots were set apart, and used for one purpose. To be used for the purification ceremony, which was the Jewish custom. *As believers we are to be set apart—consecrated, with one purpose. To become vessels who are holy, as He is holy to be used for His eternal purposes to manifest in our words, thoughts and deeds. If we are not willing, we will become like those clay pots that become contaminated—disqualifying us to reign with Him.*

4. We see, He chose waterpots that were empty, as you can only fill something if it is first empty. *Our call to die to self, let the low life go, that we may obtain the high life one surrender at a time.*

For how long? Until it is no longer I who live, but Messiah who lives in me. Until our character has become the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control.

5. He then had the waterpots filled with water to the brim—not a partial filling. *That speaks of the full indwelling of the Seven Spirits of the Lord in vessels who have made themselves ready. Vessels who will be a testimony of His love, light, character, mercy, miracle-working powers and faithfulness on this earth.*

6. Finally, we see the transformation, where the water was turned into wine. *That is us, if we are willing! For He has saved the best wine for last—His Bride, who will be His answer for the dark days ahead.*

In summary, there were six empty waterpots; they were stone and were used for one purpose. Nothing was allowed to contaminate them. Yeshua poured clean water into those empty, pure, set apart vessels and used them to manifest His glory, revealing His eternal plans for mankind. He saved the best wine for last; for those who will be a pure and spotless Bride.

Profitable and Ready

2 TIMOTHY 2:21-22 AMP.

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also [utensils] of wood and earthenware, and some for honorable and noble [use] and some for menial and ignoble [use]. So whoever cleanses himself [from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel set apart and useful for honorable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work.

To be profitable and ready for any good work that our Master wants to do through us—a vessel of noble use, we need to be cleansing and separating ourselves from everything that is unclean, contaminated and corrupt. That requires our intentional responses every day. Remember, the five foolish virgins who were not prepared and wanted oil from the five wise who were prepared. They did not take the time to prepare—fill their lamps with oil, and when the Bridegroom came, they did not make it to the wedding banquet. They tried to enter, but were told to depart, He knew

them not. Many are called, few are chosen. It is not automatic for all believers to attend the Wedding Supper [Philippians 3:14-16, Matthew 25:10, 22:14].

The choices that we make every day will determine if we make it to the feast of all Feast, or not. We must be diligent in searching our hearts daily, asking Him to show us any wicked thing within our souls—our lives, and when He does, repent and turn the other way. We must be willing to ask ourselves: Are we willing to come out of Babylon—a worldly system that is designed to destroy us? Will we be doers of the Word or just hearers? Are we willing to surrender our will for His, as often as it takes? Are we willing to use the grace that we have been given to overcome our sin nature: bad thoughts, lusts, greed, selfish ambition, jealousy, pride, sexual sins, etc. until our character has been molded, shaped and formed into His likeness?

LUKE 5:37-39

And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved. And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.'

We cannot put new wine into old wine skins, if we do, they will burst. So too, He cannot fill us with His glory, if we are not prepared for it. Meaning, our souls purified in our words, thoughts and deeds. If He did, it would destroy us. If we want the glory—the new wine, we must let go of our old ways and often childish ways of doing things. It is much easier to want our old ways—the old wine, for we have gotten used to them. But He wants to give us new wine skins, so that He can pour new wine—His glory, into our souls. Are we willing?

It is Costly

In 2010, after about a year of intense purification in my walk, one day while waiting on the Lord, He asked, *"Will you come be My Bride?"* I answered, *"Yes, Lord."* He then spoke, *"There is a high price, it is costly."* I said, *"Yes, Lord, I do not care what it cost me, You are worth everything."* He then spoke to me about the Church, saying, *"How filthy she was. How so few will be His Bride, as His Bride will be without spot or wrinkle. They think they can mingle the Holy with their filth. I AM the Holy One Who sits in the highest heavens and I can only mingle with the pure."*

It is why often others hear me say, it will cost us everything, if we are to become His Bride. There is much misunderstanding about what God requires, and what costing us everything really means. Luke 14:26, 27, 33 give the foundation for what He requires from us.

On that Day, we will all have to give an account for how we chose to live our lives on this earth. Did we become love? Did we become better, or bitter? We must not waste time, and deal with our heart issues now, while we still have time to do so. Otherwise, we will suffer loss of our eternal rewards. We may make it to heaven, but we will not receive the eternal rewards that are promised to the Overcomers in Revelation 2 and 3.

Beloved, we are the eleventh-hour laborers—the best wine that He has saved for last! If we are willing to become like those empty, pure waterpots; we will see the fullness of our eternal rewards. But we must understand, we can fall from grace. It is possible to lose our salvation. Once saved, always saved is a false doctrine that has put the Church into a slumber, causing many to become complacent and unprepared. We do not want to become like those clay pots, contaminated to the point that they had to be destroyed [Revelation 3:5].

REVELATION 3:5

He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life;

Hear, Receive and Accept

When we travel the narrow road, we will learn to love the Cross more than our own lives. Paul said, I die daily. Dying daily will prepare us to attend the Wedding Supper of the Lamb. Dying daily will prepare us for the turbulent days ahead. For when we die to our pride, needs, ambitions, wants and desires, and no longer make it about self, we will hear and obey His voice and run from all other voices. We will hear counsel, receive instruction and accept correction that we may be wise in the time to come. We will learn to be humble and to know His ways.

PSALM 25:9

He leads the humble in what is right, and the humble He teaches His ways.

God can do anything with us, if we are humble, teachable and obey Him. But we need to be all three.

In Psalms 25:9, where it says He 'leads' the humble, lead means: by 'instructions.' And where it says, the humble He 'teaches' His ways, teaches means: by 'experience.' So at different times, we are going to learn humility by specific instructions, e.g. the written Word. Or, by life's circumstances that often reveals the pride that is in our hearts.

Remember, the empty waterpots. They were simple and modest in design. They served their set apart function without compromise. And because of it, they could be used to display His glory. Yeshua tells us that it is the meek who will inherit the earth. For He will entrust them to rule over the nations, during the Millennium Reign, because they have clothed themselves in the nature of the Lamb, utterly humble and meek before God and before man.

PSALM 37:11

But the meek shall inherit the earth...

That is true Kingdom Authority! It walks completely clothed in humility and meekness. It is not about self, but all about His will being done, and the needs of others above their own. It is able to see past the faults of others and see the need filtered through His eyes of light, His lens of love and His heart of mercy and respond accordingly, for His gain and not for their own.

MATTHEW 24:45-47

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

And, it is the faithful servant found doing what the Master wants, who will rule over all His goods and distribute them to those in need. These verses refer to the Overcomers—the Bride of Messiah, who will reign with Him during the Millennium Reign [Psalm 37:11, Matthew 5:5, 24-45-47, Revelation 2:26-27, 20:4-6].

You may say, not so! But let me ask the question, "When does a person receive an inheritance?" Is it not always given after a death takes place? If the meek are to "inherit" the earth that means they will do so after they have died. And if after they died, and already in heaven, why would they have any need to be concerned with earthly matters? Because it is a promise to reign with Him and be a part of the first resurrection during the Millennium Reign.

Matthew 24 is all about the last days with the Lord forewarning what is to come and how we should be found when He appears. Verses 45-47 are a promise to the Overcomers to reign with Him. For the Lord tells them right before these verses about the catching away that will take place. If the catching away has taken place, why would these faithful servants have any need to rule over all their master's goods? Because it is a promise to reign with Him during the Millennium Reign.²

God's Favor

ISAIAH 57:15

For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

God has always been attracted to the humble and the meek. He loves using what this world considers small and foolish to bring forth His eternal plans to accomplish the impossible. Being humble causes the favor of the Lord to come upon our lives. But often God's favor is misunderstood.

Mary, Abel, Noah all were favored. Noah and Lot were favored yet escaped God's wrath, but lost most things dear to him. Joseph was favored, yet spent years in prison waiting for the promises of God to be fulfilled. Abel was favored but murdered by his brother Cain. God's favor births something new in our lives, where nothing is ever the same again. God's favor means difficulty, hardship, pressure, persecution, pain, trials and tribulation. Many teach that favor means the exact opposite of hardships, and that the favor of God means we are prosperous, have a nice house and cars, etc. Friends, that is called blessings.

ACTS 14:22

...it is through many hardships and tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

God's favor in our lives means that at some point everything changes. It will never be the same again, for the Father rocks our world and flips everything upside down. The course of our life changes drastically, with one purpose: to qualify us to be His Son's Bride. A Bride who will rule and reign with Him for all of eternity.

So when we feel the heat of His jealous love, burning up our fleshly desires, in the furnace of affliction, we can be of good cheer. For He is restoring us back to original intent. Back to that same place of intimate, pure and holy fellowship that Adam and Eve had in the Garden with Him, in the cool of the day, before the fall of man. They were filled with His glory and clothed in His Light. That is His plan for those who are of a willing heart: To know the riches of His glory and become those vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory!

ROMANS 9:22-23

What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,

Beloved, if you feel like you are in the fiery furnace of affliction with your world being rocked, I encourage you—embrace your trials and tears, for this earth is our training ground to become an Overcomer. He is training us to reign with Him wanting to qualify us—not disqualify us. He wants to make all things new, but it requires an exchange to take place. An exchange of our will for His, one surrender at a time. And every time that we do, we are becoming vessels of noble use. We are contending for the holiness of God to permeate every area of our lives, as we walk the narrow road that few will travel. AMEN!

ENDNOTES

- 1 Tracy Hogan, *Touching the Heart of God*, (Kenmare, IE: The Voice of My Beloved, 2023) 48-49. Original teaching, *Vessels of Noble Use*, Tracy Hogan (Ballymoney, Co. Antrim UK, 2018).
- 2 Tracy Hogan, *Touching the Heart of God*, (Kenmare, IE: The Voice of My Beloved, 2023) 38.

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