

Our Rehearsal Dinner

By Mark Hatfield

Introduction

1. Jesus loved to attend weddings. Perhaps He was anticipating the eternal wedding between Himself and the church when He attended the wedding in John chapter 2.
2. As a minister I have performed several weddings. I love weddings for the reminder of my obligations as a husband...ok and the free food.
3. Prior to every wedding there is a rehearsal that usually ends in a dinner. Food is always associated with a wedding.
4. Since Jesus Christ is the Groom in our sacred wedding story and the church is His bride, we anticipate spending eternity with Him and sharing the marriage supper together.
5. This life and especially this supper of our Lord that we share, is a rehearsal for the eternal ceremony.

I. Time for Rehearsal

A. Anticipation of what is to come.

1. The Father will put on a wedding feast for His Son and invite His own people to RSVP.
2. In Matthew 22 the Father becomes angry because those invited would not come. He then invited everyone in every place to attend.
3. Today we have a choice to come and be a part of this feast as a rehearsal for the marriage supper that we will partake of in eternity.
4. Do you show the Lord that you are looking forward to that day, by showing up for the rehearsal dinner (See Revelation 19:6-9)?

B. Understanding the significance

1. Traditionally after the rehearsal there is a dinner to follow.
2. At the wedding itself, there will be a much more significant meal.
3. As we partake of the Lord's Supper together today, imagine how much more significant our supper will be when we are forever with the Lord.
4. As a truth, when we partake of the Lord's Supper we not only think about what our Savior did on the cross, but also what He is going to do at His coming (Rev. 21:1-5)

II. Dinner is served

A. Reverence and Rejoicing (I Cor. 11:27, 29)

1. In viewing this time together in this way, we cannot only see the supper as a time of reverence, but also rejoicing
2. We revere the Lord for His redemptive sacrifice, but we rejoice because He is taking us home someday.
3. While it is okay to have somber feelings of sadness and even introspective hearts during the supper, as we sing songs to prepare our minds, sing out with joy that the Lord is coming to claim His bride.

B. Reinforcement and Reflection (I Cor. 11:24-25)

1. We need to reconsider all that has been done to reclaim us from sin.
2. We also need to remember the events that led up to our redemption.

C. Restoration and Reunion (Acts 20:7)

1. This is a great time to make sure we know where we are supposed to be in life and rededicate ourselves to the Lord.
2. It is also important to make sure that you are united with your brothers and sisters in Christ who surround the table with you.
3. We are to break bread together as we restore and reunite ourselves to one another and the Lord.

Conclusion

1. It is an honor to be a guest at a wedding, even more so to be a part of the wedding party. God has arranged that His Son go above and beyond that and make us the bride of Christ.
2. Let us use this opportunity to revere the Lord, rejoice that He is coming to take us home, reinforce and reflect upon what it means to be His people and then restore or reunite ourselves to the Lord and our fellow brethren at this table.
3. Let us now partake of the Lord's Supper as a rehearsal for the marriage supper of the Lamb.