

The Beloved and His Bride

by Randy Jones

The sermon emphasizes the importance of focusing on Jesus Christ and understanding the mystery of the Church as the Bride of Christ.

Scripture: Esther 2:17, Matthew 3:17, John 1:36, John 17:24, 1 Corinthians 2:4, Ephesians 4:13, 1 Timothy 3:16, Revelation 2:4, Revelation 19:7, Revelation 22:17

Topics: "Christology", "Spiritual Growth"

Description

Randy Jones delves into the profound mystery of the relationship between the Father and the Son, emphasizing how God delights in His Son, Jesus Christ, who came to reveal the glories of God to us. He highlights the importance of our apprehension, understanding, and revelation of Jesus in shaping our Christian walk and character. Jones shares his longing to be more Christ-like and the need for believers to seek a deeper revelation of Jesus through trials and tests, rather than being satisfied with the status quo.

Transcript

Last week I talked about this series, The Beloved, and I talked about the Father's delight and why the Father delights in His Son, and that the Bible says that the mystery of godliness is great. That God was manifest in the flesh. That's Jesus Christ - and that God gathered up all the glories and wonders of His own person, deposited them in His Son, and sent Him to us to reveal Himself to us. Even back in eternity past there was a relationship going on - a love between the Father and the Son, and we are getting in on that. It has a lot to do with the purpose of creation. We get to be blessed by that love relationship between the Father and the Son. I covered that last week and I brought out three of the main things. Our apprehension, understanding, and revelation of Jesus determines what kind of Christian we are.

I have been privileged in my life to know two Christians very much like Jesus. I have known many, many great Christians, but two stand out to me because of their Christ-likeness. I told you last week that the thing I grieve about the most in my self is my lack of Christ-likeness. It seems so slow. The process takes so long. I wish it were instantaneous. I wish you were saved and that was it and you were done and that was it. You were like Jesus. But God has a purpose and a plan for us to grow unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Jesus, through trials and tests. You only lay hold of more of Christ, through a crisis.

We get satisfied with the way we are and what we have and we go along and everything is okay, but when we get into some sort of trial or test to where we have no option but to seek the Lord and cry out for a new

revelation of Christ. I brought out that even the early church that started with so much power and glory, lost their personal revelation of Jesus. After the apostles died and just John was left alive, they began to decline and lose their power and their focus on Christ. One of the things I've noticed as I have watched Christian TV, and traveled and been around - we claim to have a lot of power, but we don't have the kind of power we claim. I grieve over that. I want the power of God. I want to be able to pray for people with cancer and see them get off their deathbed. God wants that.

I believe, and if the whole world disagreed with me on this, I would still take this stand, the reason we don't see these kinds of miracles is we have lost our focus on Jesus Christ, and God says, "That is not pleasing to me. I can't release my glory and power." Our church, our generation, we are caught up in things of the world, in television. We have to be honest and admit there are very few that are really walking in personal holiness, without taking corruption into their lives from the world. I mean television and the things of the world. We adopt their values, their morals, their standards, their clothing. I am not saying you can't look nice and pretty, but we can't be slaves to those things.

When God saw that the early church had lost the revelation of Jesus, the Holy Spirit through John, wrote the book of John and the book of Revelation, to turn the church's focus back to His Son. I know that is what God is doing in this hour. On one hand I see an outpouring of the spirit of fear, an outpouring of the spirit of unbelief, not from heaven, from hell. There is a spirit of unbelief that is sweeping the world right now. Right after 9-11 everybody said, "Let's go to church. Let's get serious about this." Do you know that now church attendance is lower than it was before 9-11? People said they went to church and there was nothing there. They went back to church and there was nothing there to attract them or draw them. They went away disillusioned and disappointed. So now if something like that happens again they won't go back to church, they will just look for another answer - drugs, alcohol, whatever to narcotize themselves, and try to ignore what is going on. Our level of apprehension, revelation and understanding of Jesus, determines what kind of Christian we are. If we really lay hold of Jesus we will be great Christians.

I have met two really great Christians, one is Leroy Beatty - I've told you about the street preacher in Louisville, Kentucky, who had the whole Bible memorized, and I got to minister with him for a long time. He was one of the most Christ like people I have ever known. If I could be half the Christian he was, I would be a great Christian. That is one of my goals, to be half the Christian Leroy Beatty was. He was so Christ-like. He loved souls, he loved God, and he loved Jesus. He loved Jesus and he loved to pray and get into the Word. Whenever you were around him you, he wanted to talk about the Word. You wanted to talk about souls. You had no choice. If you went to McDonalds with him, he was going to pass out gospel tracts. I had to stay prayed through all the time. If Brother Beatty said, "Let's go out to eat", I had to pray through real quick, if I wasn't prayed through, because he was going to witness to everyone in the restaurant. The other one is my Grandmother Jones. She is the one who led me to the Lord. She was the kindest, most Christ-like person I have ever known.

Being Christ-like doesn't mean you are not tough. I used to think it meant you were some sort of worm or wimp. Jesus made a whip out of cords and He ran them out of the temple, whipping them on the back. That is still love. The enemy has come in and taken away our focus and centrality of Jesus Christ, in our personal lives and across the board, in our churches and denominations. We are focused on everything but Jesus. Let me ask you this. Sunday morning I preached on wasting yourself on Jesus and ministering to His pleasure. Don't answer this question - but what percentage of the church in America do you think that it is, that the main thing in their lives, that their focus - is just wasting themselves on Jesus? It is a tiny, tiny minority. I know because I fight a fierce battle - for one day - to stay focused on Jesus. The devil

diverts us, sends up smoke screens, hand grenades, bombs, and whatever he can do, and we are diverted and distracted because for a minute we touched the Lord, and he is jealous of that. One of my all-time favorite quotations is by John Donne, "I neglect God for the buzzing of a fly, for the creaking of a door, for the rattle of a coach in the street".

Another one of my favorite quotes is, "We need an experience of Christ in which we think everything of Christ and nothing of the experience." That is very profound. We are an experience seeking generation. How about being a Christ-seeking generation where we don't care about the experience, we care about Christ. We need preachers who will not demand faith or love we cannot rise to. Did you ever think about that? This changed my preaching. I used to make people try to have faith and love, but you can't do it. You can preach on love all day long and we will still be fighting. But if you preach Jesus, He will produce and compel love and faith. I always had the cart before the horse wondering why it wouldn't go. You have to know Jesus. He brings faith and love into your life. He is the only one that can. I can't do it and no one else can do it but Jesus can do it.

Another version of the Bible translates Matthew 3:17 - "This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have always been delighting". This has been going on for eons and it will go on forever. God will always be delighting in His Son. The way I can please God is to hide in Jesus, and be in Christ. That is the secret place of the Most High. In the Shadow of the Almighty.

Some times as a preacher, I wonder, "Should I preach on these things, or should I not - because they are really very, very deep - but simple. Things can be deep, but also simple. We can hear them, but not really get the revelation of it. Turn with me to John 3:29. "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled." John the Baptist is talking and he said the one that hath the bride is the bridegroom. He is basically saying I have heard the bridegroom's voice and my joy has been fulfilled. The devil's going to try to rob you of what I say, right now - of the verse I just read." This is not something that is easy to comprehend but it is wonderful. We're talking about the Beloved. Jesus Christ. What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit? We are Spirit-filled! The new city is built on the foundation of twelve tongue-talking, Spirit-filled, preachers. What's the purpose of the Holy Spirit? To glorify and testify of Jesus. Many could not tell you that. Many charismatics will say, "Well, the main purpose of the Holy Spirit is to prophesy." I went to a church that had prophetic worship, and prophetic prayer, and prophetic programs, they passed out. Everything was prophetic. The Bible says the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophesy. Whatever you want to name, anything in the Bible, the gifts of the spirit, the fruit of the spirit, all those things are really coming from Christ. Because God has revealed everything in this world through His Son. Jesus said, "No man comes to the Father except by Me or through Me." You can't bypass Him. You can't go around Him. You can't go through another religion. You can't go through some other way or some other path. There is only one way to the Father, and that is through the cross, through Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit will not light on anything else.

Until you focus on Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit will not move in your life. You get away from the cross and you just stopped the Holy Spirit moving in your life. We have so many Pentecostals and Charismatics - spirit-filled, full gospel - whatever you call it, that are running around, and they are just a tempest in a teapot. I have done it many times myself. We are not more in love with Jesus every day. We are just running around trying to find a doctrine or something we can prove, or somebody we can show up or get in a debate with. We don't really understand that the Holy Spirit has quit moving. It is like Samson who did not know the Spirit of Lord had departed from him. That is one of the saddest verses in the Bible.

Sometimes we are running around worried about all the gifts, and I love the gifts. We have to have them. They are to the church. And I love the fruit of the spirit. I love all these things, but the Holy Spirit is not here to titillate us or give us goose bumps or Jesus bumps or whatever you want to call them or make us fall out, glow in the dark, levitate - that's not why the Holy Spirit's here.

He is here to glorify and testify of Jesus, and if that's what you are hungry for and thirsty for, He'll move heaven and earth to reveal Jesus to your soul. If you will open up your heart and cry out to God and say, "God I want to know you, and I want to know Jesus". The Holy Spirit will walk up and down in your soul, and glorify and testify of Jesus. Bernard of Clairoux said, "The Lord, the Bridegroom, has entered my soul and I have known the loveliness of His beauty". When Jesus enters your soul, everything changes. The master theme of the Bible, the biggest type in the Bible, the biggest picture of Jesus Christ in the Bible, is the Lamb. From Genesis, where God made them bloody coats of skin - probably of lambs - according to what is taught later.

Then Abel took a firstling of the flock, a lamb, and offered it up to God, and God had respect to it - to the book of Revelation, where the Lamb is next to God's throne. Twenty-eight times the Lambkin is mentioned in Revelation, (the Greek word for a tiny, baby newborn lamb). All the way through the Bible - the biggest picture of Jesus is as the Lamb of God. The Lamb was promised something by his Father. He said, "I'll go and I'll do your will Father." Besides being the Father's will, and Jesus wanting to please his Father, God gave him a reward in front of Him, "Who for the joy was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of God." The Father said, "My Son, I will make you a Bride".

The deepest revelation of Jesus in the Bible is that He is the heavenly Bridegroom, waiting for His Bride to be presented to Him. Waiting anxiously for His Wedding Day - the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. When we are talking about the Lamb, we are talking about the Bridegroom. His Bride is called the Lamb's Wife. The most important thing to Jesus is that He is going to have a bride. Romans 1:19-20 the natural is a type of the spiritual. What God made in the natural, He is revealing something in the spiritual, and the first being like Himself that God made, he made a man, and he breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. God looked at the sun, the moon, the stars, and the giraffes, and the hippopotamus, and everything else, and He said, "That's good". "That's good." "That's good." And he looked at man, and he said, "That's not good." That's what He said. It was the first thing He looked at, and said, "That's not good." Why? It was not good for man to be alone.

Now remember, God is painting a picture for us in the spiritual realm by what He did in the natural realm. His first act concerning his own kind, his own nature. God brought Adam, and they looked for him a helpmeet. God knew what He was going to do, but Adam didn't. God took Adam out there, and he brought an alligator out in front of him. "What do you think?" "I don't think so." They went through every animal in the world. Don't you know he was glad when the rhinoceros wasn't the one, the giraffe, or a snake? Or a kangaroo. He named them all after their nature. The Bible says they went through every animal on earth looking for a helpmeet for Adam. No, no, no. He's going "Thank goodness, it wasn't that one." They could not find one, because he had no kind. He had no counterpart. He had no one like him.

So God put him to sleep. This is my belief - and the old time Pentecostals, and some of the Puritans - taught that there is a body of Christ that is the church, and that God is going to take a rib company out of His body, and make a bride for His Son. The reason they taught this, was that they knew that not every Tom, Dick, and Harry that sits on a church pew is going to marry Jesus Christ. We have someone getting married this weekend. I don't think the young man went to the nursery, to the cry room, to see if he could

find a bride. Sucking on a pacifier with a dirty diaper. And if he did take a little baby from the nursery and said, "Let's go out to eat. Let's look at the sunset." And he looks at the little baby and the baby goes, "Goo goo". There could be no fellowship of any kind, because they are not close, not on the same level. God saw there was no kind like Adam, so he made a kind. He made one like Adam. Adam looked at Eve, actually originally it was probably Mr. And Mrs. Adam; Adam named her Eve, later. God called their name, Adam.

And he said, "Finally", this is how the Hebrew reads, "Finally, here at last, is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh." None of us really has the revelation of what that means. This is repeated twice in the New Testament. This is a great mystery Paul says, "and I speak of the church". Bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh, that's the way the Bride of Christ, is going to be, this is what He was promised by His Father. John the Baptist said, "I've heard the bridegroom's voice. The bridegroom came down to reveal Himself to his bride." That is one of his main purposes. To entice her. To go to the cross and display who He was, his heart, His love, and make her fall in love with Him.

The bride of Jesus loves the cross, and His suffering and His death. The world thinks it is foolish, stupid, and ugly. Isaiah says, "He had no beauty that we should desire Him. His face was more marred than any man." But the bride of Christ sees His suffering and agony, and it makes her love Him even more. It is not foolishness to her. And God is going see there is a kind for Jesus, a helpmeet - a counterpart.

Have you ever been out on the ocean during a storm? My wife, Nancy and I went to the Bahamas, and I didn't want to go on one of the big boats out to the coral reef, because they charge \$50.00. There was a little Bahamian fisherman in a little blue boat, and I asked him how much he would charge us to take us out to the reef. He said, "\$10.00". That sounded good. I had saved \$40 right there. A young black lady from Philadelphia came running up in a business suit, hose, and shoes and asked where we were going, and she wanted to go, too. She climbed in the boat with us and we went out to the reef. In the bay it is real calm and smooth.

In fact, Nancy and I had been snorkeling in the bay, and we saw this couple coming out of the water, with star fish, and shells and I thought "Let's go snorkeling in the bay" - because I don't like deep water. It was very smooth and calm and I saw a giant clam. I told Nancy to swim over to it, and we did, and it was a giant pair of men's BVD underwear, lying on the bottom. I didn't want to know where they came from, or how they got there. I was so disappointed. We swam all over the place and could not find one starfish, or shell, or anything. That's why we rented this little boat. We took off in the boat got out to the coral reef. No one had told me that once you get out past the coral reef, the water scary and choppy. Big waves. I get seasick in the bathtub. We get out past the reef, and immediately I was horribly seasick. We were bouncing back and forth, in this little, tiny fishing boat. The lady from Philadelphia literally turned green, and she got sick. I was getting sick and I told the guy I had to get out of the boat. I am not a good swimmer, so I put on the mask and snorkel and the life preserver, and I jumped in the water just to get out of the boat, because I was about to get sick. I was trying to swim, the life jacket came loose, and my snorkel mask leaked and filled with water. I was drowning, and Nancy is in the boat laughing at me. Some girls in a power boat came by and saved me. I was drowning.

When I read about Jesus out on the Sea of Galilee, in the storm, and He was asleep, that tells me He was incredibly exhausted and tired. I could never sleep in that, and He was asleep in the bottom of the boat. The storm was so bad that these experienced, seasoned fishermen are scared. They worked on that sea for a living, and they were terrified. They woke Him up and said, "Master, Master, don't you care that we

perish?" And Jesus called them his favorite nickname, "Oh, ye of little faith". That's what He called them all the time, "Little Faith".

He stood up in the bow of the boat and He said, "Siopao" "Shut up! Be Silent! Hush!" "Pefimooso!" "Put a muzzle on it!" "Don't ever let me hear from you again!"

Can you understand that the storm is tossing the boat back and forth, and Jesus is standing in the bow of the boat and is saying, "Shut up. Put a muzzle on it, and don't even let me hear from you again!" The Bible says, instantaneously the water went down, the storm ceased, and the Bible says that these experienced fishermen, who had been afraid of the storm, were now more afraid of Jesus. They looked at each other and said, "What manner of man is this? " They were saying, "What species is this? What kind of is this?" " Who is this, that even the winds and the waves obey His voice?"

God saw that there was no kind or counterpart for His Only Begotten Son. There was no one like Him, so He created the whole universe, to raise up and train, and prepare a counterpart - that's going to sit on the throne and rule and reign with His Son for all eternity. Everybody else is going to get in on it. They are going to be blessed. I am not going to argue about this. This is just my opinion. I am 100% personally convinced, by Scripture, and by God's creation, that the purpose of all creation is to train and prepare a bride for the Father's Beloved Son - the Heavenly Bridegroom! John the Baptist is going to be the best man. He referred to Himself as the friend of the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom is the one who stands and hears his voice, and says my joy is full now - complete - I've heard the bridegroom's voice. The Holy Spirit is going to be there. The Father is going to officiate. It is not going to be a shot gun wedding, where the father is marching a bride in curlers and cold cream, with jelly stains on her housecoat, down the aisle. The Bible says, "His bride has made herself ready." Like Esther. An extremely deep and profound passage is, Revelation 22:17. It says, "The Spirit and the Bride say Come, come drink of the water of life freely."

I don't understand how the Spirit and the bride are already out there in eternity future when John is seeing all these things. The Spirit and the Bride say come. I don't understand that but I know it is true, and that it is deep. I know it is profound. I know it means something wonderful.

Hebrews says the New Jerusalem is the mother of us all. In I Cor. 15, when Jesus has subdued every enemy until they are all under His feet, until the last one is under His feet, called death, and He puts it under His feet and does away with it - He is going to turn around, and turn the government back over to his Father, and He is going to sit on the throne. I don't know what all going to happen, but He will be with His Bride. He went through the agonies of hell, literally, hell for her. Here is a man who never had a family. He only lived to be 33. He didn't have a wife, kids, a home, everything we enjoy and like, He gave it all up.

We celebrate Christmas - Jesus being born in a manger. The Bible says he left ivory palaces, where angels fell at His feet and worshipped Him. He was the Bright and Morning Star, and He left all of that, and came down to this world - because His Father had promised Him, "I am going to make someone like you, your bride. I set this joy before you!" This is not a natural, sexual, physical, or sensual thing. This is a spiritual thing. A spiritual love.

I cannot find it anywhere in the Bible where any of us are invited to be the bride of Christ. I can't find it. It's not there. I have looked. You know why? Only the Holy Spirit can do that. The Holy Spirit draws us. We get saved. He draws us to the Son. There has to be some kind of a love and seeking there, because the greatest story in Genesis is when Abraham sent Eliezer out, and Eliezer is a type of the Holy Spirit, and he

said, "I want you to go back where I came from, to my kinsmen and find a bride for my son." You know the story how he wanted water for himself and she said, "Not only for you, but for your camels also." But the amazing thing to me is that here is a girl who doesn't even know the guy. She hasn't even met him before, and he sits down, and tells her about Isaac. This is the way the Holy Spirit does. This is His job - to train and prepare a bride for Jesus Christ. That is what He is doing all the time. He is not going to present a prostitute. As preachers and leaders we are not supposed to go out into the streets and get a harlot, a prostitute. God is raising up a bride without spot and without blemish, and she is going to be wearing fine linen, clean and white, and the Bible says that blessed are all those who are invited to the reception, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. You are blessed if you are invited to that. But the Bible says his wife has made herself ready. That's another deep verse.

What does that mean There is a point where love takes over. I believe that God responds in kind to love. God loves all of us. God loves the whole world. Jesus died for the whole world. But God wouldn't be fair if I loved Him more than many others, and His relationship is the same with them. They are carnal, and worldly, and watch wicked things on TV all the time. You know what I mean, they are caught up in the world, and wasting their time and that is all they do. They have a little bit of interest in the Lord. And they go to church and their conscience gets soothed and then they go home. But here is a brother or sister, in love with Jesus, fasting, lying on the floor, crying "Jesus, I want to know you. Holy Spirit reveal Jesus to me."

Just as Eliezer did to Rebecca. You know what Eliezer did? He sat this young girl down and said, "See this coat. This is from Isaac. He sent it for you. See these rings? These are from Isaac." And he loads her down with gifts. He said, "Let me tell you about him. He is so wise and kind, he is so good looking. He is wonderful." Saints, if we would ever get still, and get down, and love the Lord like this, the Holy Spirit would just fill that room and say, "I have been waiting for a chance like this. Let me tell you about him. His name is Wonderful. Let me tell you what that means, Counselor. He is the Bridegroom. He wants you to be prepared and ready" and He will tell you such wonderful things about Jesus, that you will fall deeper in love with Him than you were when you first were saved. She fell in love with Isaac long distance, and that is what we are doing.

We are falling in love with Him whom having not seen, we love. And Beloved, it does not yet appear what we shall be. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him. For we shall see him as He is. John saw Him as He was, and fell at His feet as a dead man. The Jesus that he leaned on His bosom, when he saw Him in His glory, he fell at his feet like a dead man.

His face shining like the sun. His eyes like flames of fire. The bad news is that you have to ride camels. I hate camels! They stink. If I had a message to the bride of Jesus Christ, its the Camels are Coming! Why does the devil hate this truth so much? He'll get you off here in left field to one extreme ... I know a little church right now, a local church ... by the way, you know God's plan is the local church. They are sitting there right now over in East Texas, and they think they are the bride. They are the only ones in the bride. To the other extreme is, you can be a homosexual or alcoholic, and be in the bride of Jesus Christ. The truth is the bride of Jesus Christ is made up of saints down through time, all over the world, probably from every denomination that believes in Jesus, and the Holy Spirit I don't know, but God knows. I know if it was automatic, God wouldn't have said you have to make yourself ready. You have to be clothed in fine linen, clean and white. The last part of the book says, "Come". There is a rising up, a coming out and up. The bad news is you have to come on camels.

You can't go in a Mercedes. I wish you could. I wish you could live for God and just ride in a Mercedes all the way, with the CD playing and the air conditioner going, going 70 mph. But you can't. He told Rebecca parents, they changed their minds, "Wait a minute. We don't want you to go." They called her in and said, "Will you go with this man? You don't even know this man." She said, "I will go." Eliezer had done such a good job, that even when she saw the camels, she said, Yes! It was about a two week journey on camels and she said, "I'll go." That is what the Lord is asking you, "Will you go?"

The Holy Spirit will come to you and make this real to you. He will testify to you and glorify Jesus to you, but Satan hates this truth. He obscures it. He damages it. He tries to put a bad taste in your mouth about it. He'll sour you through some experience, or group that taught these truths, and say, "They are all messed up. I don't even want to be in the bride of Christ."

When I was a young teenager I thought "I don't want to be anybody's bride. I am a man!" I didn't understand it was spiritual. The picture is of the submission and surrender of a bride and a oneness. The Bible calls her the Lamb's Wife. She is like the Lamb. She follows Him wherever He goes. It is the nature of a Lamb, if you want to know the nature of the Bride. Satan hates it. My experience along this line is that I have heard people teach it that were ugly and mean, and spiritually proud and elitist, and you would get turned off it and think, "I'm just going to be a regular Christian."

In the last days the Lord is going to raise up a group that says, "I want to marry Jesus Christ. I want to be like Him. I want to make myself ready. I want to throw off everything that is hindering me." What does it say in Revelation - keep your garments unspotted from this world. That is one of the requirements. You don't get there by accident. Someone climbed Mt. Everest, and got all the way to the top. It takes months to do it - the conditions are so bad. If a reporter was standing there waiting, and asked, "How did you get here?" "I don't know. It was an accident. I was just out walking the dog and ended up on top of Mt. Everest." You don't get here by accident. You have to purpose in your heart, "I want to be His bride." I am just touching on the surface, believe me. All the way through the Bible - Eve, Ruth, Esther, Mary - Jesus' Mother, Mary of Bethany, Mary Magdalene, these are all pictures of the Bride of Christ. All these different women portray aspects of the Bride of Christ.

What does this mean to me in my every day life?

His wife made herself ready. Remember Esther. What did she do? She bathed. She put on the garments, she was bold. She went into the king. All the things she did are what we have to do. Because of your hunger for Jesus, and love for Him, God puts in you the will and the do. Once a guy quoted the verse to me, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling". That is a great truth, but have you ever read the next verse? "For it is God who works in you both the will, and the do of His good pleasure." So I have to ask God, and this is our part, to lie before the Lord, and fast and pray and seek God.

Get in the Word and say, "Lord, put the will and the do in me. I want this. I don't want to be a regular run of the mill Christian. I don't want the status quo. I want to be in your bride, Jesus, and whatever it takes to get me there" - that's my part. And when God lays his hand on something and says, "You are doing this and you are doing that. Get this out of your life." What's your part? Yes, Lord, I'll do it. I surrender. I surrender. The mystery of the ages, and believe me I am just touching on this to whet your appetite a little.

When Jesus came into this world - when He went to the Jordan River - the Father spoke audibly out of heaven and said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I have always been delighting." John the Baptist baptized Jesus one day, and then says, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world".

Then the next day Jesus was walking along the bank and John the Baptist shouts, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world". Why was Jesus hanging around the Jordan River so much? He was looking for somebody. He comes back again the next day, and John the Baptist sees him again and says, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world". Well that time, two guys standing there, disciples of John noticed Him. I don't know what they noticed, but they started following Him. The day I saw this it blessed me so much. Something about Jesus drew them. They were intrigued, they were interested, and I believe it was the Holy Spirit drawing them. Jesus just walks up to the bank for no reason and then walks off. John the Baptist said, "Look, it's the Lamb of God again who takes away the sin of the world." And then He just walks off. Two of John's disciples noticed him this time and they started following Him.

Jesus turned around and said, "What do you want?" They had no idea what they wanted. Something was drawing them. They said the first thing they could think of, "Where do you live?" You know what He said", Come and see" "Come and see". The Bible says they went home with Him and stayed there all day. They never were the same again. We know one of them was Andrew, and the other one was John. Andrew and John never were the same again. It ruined their lives, saints. It ruined their lives for good, for heaven. One of them went and got his brother the next day and said, "Peter, you know what we have been looking for our whole lives? I found it."

Peter comes back the next day. Can you imagine the excitement? That's why I hate dry, dead doctrine and teaching. I can't study it any more. I can't stand it anymore. I don't want to listen to it on the radio. I don't want it in my head. I want to hear somebody that loves Jesus Christ. I want someone that's walking with Him, and knows Him. That's what's on my mind now. I believe that in the last days God is going to start putting that on all of our minds. That we are going to want to start knowing Him like we've never known Him. That we are tired of everything else. Tired of the status quo. Tired of this and that.

Can you imagine Jesus' excitement when He sat there fellowshiping with two of His bride for the first time? That day Jesus sat down with two of his bride, and spent the day with them? That's why He was there. It sure ruined their life. Aren't you glad He ruined your life?

"Father, in the name of Jesus, bless Your people tonight. They are hungry for you. Make them hungrier. I don't want to be satisfied. I want to be dissatisfied with a holy dissatisfaction. Bless your people tonight. Feed them with your word. Holy Spirit, reveal Jesus to them. Sometimes you have to convict us of sin, and deal with us and cleanse us. We want to grow up in you. We want to mature in you. We want to be a clean bride, a mature bride, a holy bride. Lord you are not going to marry a harlot, you want a clean bride. Lord, I pray you will raise us up to seek your face like never before."

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/andy-jones/the-beloved-and-his-bride/>

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