



Sermon Discussion Questions

May 6, 2012

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Celebrate: Forever!

Please note that Sermon Discussion Questions will PAUSE during the summer. They will pause after the May 6 Sermon Questions.

Scripture: Revelation 19:1-9; 22:17-21

Introduce it: Begin thinking about the sermon

What have been the best weddings you have been a part of? Why do you describe them as the best? What was the celebration like?

Revisit it: Look back at the passages taught

Read Revelation 19:1-9

Paint the picture given of heaven in these passages. Name everything this passage tells us about heaven. Is this what you have imagined heaven being like?

*Leader: help the group to recognize all the celebration language in this section. help them recognize the focus is on the union between the bride (church) and groom (Jesus). God has been faithful to the point that the wedding is finally happening.

Think through the entirety of the Scriptures. Name all the places in the Bible that you can think of in which God has fought to make this wedding happen. In other words, what are the times in the Bible in which the wedding could have been called off, but God remained faithful to make sure it happens.

*Leader: After Adam ate from the tree, instead of sparing Noah and his family, he could have destroyed all, when the Israelites decided not to go into the promised land, when Israel said they didn't want God to be king but wanted a man to be king, when they killed his son, etc...

Think through your life. Share with the group about a time or two in which God could have called the wedding off between you and him but he didn't-he kept pursuing you.

Read Revelation 22:12, 17-21

In verses 12 and 20 a promise of Jesus is given. Does this promise give you hope? Does it give you fear? Why?

*Leader: the promise is that he is coming soon.

Who all is invited to come to the wedding feast described here?

*Leader: anyone that hears, the thirsty for more, anyone that wishes to come

Our celebration is not to live "FOR" the future but to live "FROM" the future. What is the difference in these two ways of living and why is this important to notice?

*Leader: we have to live from the promise of Jesus coming. We make a huge impact now and make wise decisions NOW because of what we know will be coming. The difference is that when we live "for" the future, we check out now, we just don't care now and just wait for the future. We live celebratory lives in light of the future.

Author, Don Miller, describes the Bible as a story told in 3 Acts: Act 1 is Genesis 1-11 and described as "People want nothing to do with God". Act 2 is Genesis 12-Jesus and is described as "God reconciles willing people to himself". We are still in this Act but waiting for the final Act 3-the greatest celebration ever as God finalizes the marriage.

We continue to live in Act 2 today but what are ways that we try to get to Act 3 on our own? In what ways, here on earth, do we pretend like we are at the final feast already?

Read Matthew 25:1-13. Talk about the wedding feast and what in this passage excites you?

Use It: Don't just learn the passage-apply it

Give specific ways that you can live today "FROM" the future and how that is different from living "FOR" the future.

We are not yet in Act 3 and therefore life will have it's blues and its celebrations. What are blues that you are living in that knowing Act 3 is coming helps you to keep moving?

Who are people that God has in your life that need to know about the great wedding feast? Who is someone this week that you can encourage by showing them how to live from the future and not for the future?

Remember It: Memorize the verse

Memorize Revelation 22:20. "He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.'"

Teach this verse to your children. Help your children learn what it means now to be people that celebrate that the wedding is about to happen!