

Waiting For The Promise Of The Father
Or
Not Departing from Jerusalem
Part 2, Acts 1:4 and Gen. 2:20-24 and Eph. 5:22-32.

I. Review:

- A. The promise involved help and a Helper by way of the Person of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. That help and the Helper would come when the Holy Spirit would come and join Himself to the disciples.
 - 2. That help and the Helper would also come when the disciples entrusted themselves to the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
 - 3. The Holy Spirit would do a twofold work; a work of empowering and transforming in the disciples, and a work of witness through the disciples.

Applications:

- 1. The promise of help and a Helper is good for you too; in the midst of life's perplexing situations do not lose sight of that. Hebrews 4:16 and Luke 11:9-13.
- 2. The same twofold work is involved: A transforming work in you and a work of witness through you. Do not lose sight of that. Put yourself again as a lump of clay on the Potter's wheel of the Lord.
- 3. The same twofold condition applies: Wait for the promise of the Father, and do not depart from Jerusalem.

B. The significance of Jerusalem.

- 1. In the OT the country of Israel and the city of Jerusalem are types of the better and heavenly country Abraham saw in Hebr. 11:16, and of the better and heavenly city, New Jerusalem, also spoken of in Hebr. 11:16.
- 2. For the New Testament believer Jerusalem is therefore New Jerusalem, Where the Lord Jesus is at the right hand of the Father and where we go "in the Spirit" to worship the Lord on the Lord's day. Hebr. 12:22-24. It is also the throne of grace. Hebr. 4:16.
- 3. The disciples stood at the end of the old dispensation and at the beginning of the new one. We find them abiding in Old Jerusalem and New Jerusalem simultaneously, for they continued with one accord in prayer and supplication (before the throne of God in New Jerusalem) Acts 1:14.

II. Visualizing this waiting and not departing.

- A. Faith is the eye of our soul. If faith can see it, it can believe it.
Hence the abundance of visual language in the Scriptures. (Parables, Psalms and Prophets especially.)
Hence Paul's prayer for the Ephesians that the eyes of their hearts (literal rdg.) might be enlightened; that they might know the hope... the riches... the glory... and the power... of their position in Christ. Eph. 1:18,19
- B. If the Ephesian Christians could visualize it; if the eye of their faith could see it, then they could make it their own, be transformed by it, and live out of it.
So it is with you; if the eye of your faith can visualize New Jerusalem and place

yourself in the presence of the Holy Trinity, then you will be able to go there and to wait there and not depart from there.

- C. To that end the Lord has given us visual imagery to aid our faith.
 - 1. The Lord's table where we are seated as emancipated sons. (Last week).
The Lord's table where we are seated as the bride of Christ. (This week)
 - 2. The Lord's Throne where we wait as His servants. (Next week.)

III. Seated as the Bride of Christ.

- A. The first Adam found no helper suitable to him among all God's creatures until the Lord made for him Eve out of one of his own ribs.
- B. In this, says the Apostle Paul in Eph 5:32, we have an analogy of Christ and the Church.
 - 1. In His incarnation the Lord Jesus Christ became a suitable Head and Husband to His Church. The invisible eternal and spiritual God tangibly entered time and space in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. True God and True man.
 - 2. In regeneration, by the indwelling and transforming work of the Holy Spirit, The church is made a suitable helper and companion to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 3. In the union between Christ and His Church, the Godhead, in Christ, becomes the partaker of a true human nature without ceasing to be God. And man, through regeneration and the indwelling by the Holy Spirit, comes in the possession of a true divine nature without ceasing to be man. 2 Peter 1:4. So God joins them together in an inseparable union, suitable to each other.
- C. This union defines who you are.
 - 1. You are seen as "espoused to Christ" (legally contracted.) 2 Cor 11:2.
 - 2. The bride of Christ. Rev. 21:9 and 22:17.
 - 3. The wife of Christ. Rev. 19:7 and 21:9.
- D. You are adopted into God's family; and you are no longer the little girl that was under tutors and guardians as was the OT church. The little girl has blossomed into womanhood; she has been emancipated; she has been espoused to Christ, and is seated at the Lord's table as a full member of the family of the Godhead.

Implications and Applications:

- 1. In the picture from Gal. 4:1-7 we have an emphasis on the Christian as an emancipated son; as a legal heir of God and a fellow heir of Christ; a being seated in the capacity of fully recognized manhood at the Lord's table next to our older brother, Christ.
- 2. In the picture here, woven from a composite of passages, the emphasis falls on the union and loving communion that exists between Christ and the Church. We are fellow heirs with Christ by virtue of our marriage into the divine family.
- 3. The question you always have to answer in the perplexities of life is: Will you stand at the Lord's side as a helper suitable to Him in the midst of the difficulties?
Remember, you are not alone there; He is there first and foremost.
That place becomes your Jerusalem; there wait at His side; don't depart from it, and there yield yourself as a suitable helper to Christ with the Spirit's help.