

Message Two

Christ as the Physician and the Bridegroom

RM *Hymns*: 510, 1315

Scripture Reading: Matt. 9:10-13, 15; Rev. 19:7-9

- Matt 9:10 And as He was reclining at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and reclined together with Jesus and His disciples.
- Matt 9:11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, Why does your Teacher eat with the tax collectors and sinners?
- Matt 9:12 Now when He heard this, He said, Those who are strong have no need of a physician, but those who are ill.
- Matt 9:13 But go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice," for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.
- Matt 9:15 And Jesus said to them, The sons of the bridechamber cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? But days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.

I. The Gospel of Matthew reveals that Christ is versus religion and that the things concerning Christ are outside of religion:

- A. The birth of Christ, the finding of Christ, the recommending of Christ, and the following of Christ were all outside of religion—1:18-23; 2:1-12; 3:1-12; 4:12-22.
- Matt 1:18 Now the origin of Jesus Christ was in this way: His mother, Mary, after she had been engaged to Joseph, before they came together, was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit.
- Matt 1:19 And Joseph her husband, being righteous and not willing to disgrace her openly, intended to send her away secretly.
- Matt 1:20 But while he pondered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife, for that which has been begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit.
- Matt 1:21 And she will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.
- Matt 1:22 Now all this has happened so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying,
- Matt 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel" (which is translated, God with us).
- Matt 2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem,
- Matt 2:2 Saying, Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star at its rising and have come to worship Him.
- Matt 2:3 And when Herod the king heard this, he was troubled and all Jerusalem with him.
- Matt 2:4 And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
- Matt 2:5 And they said to him, In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written through the prophet:
- Matt 2:6 "And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you the least among the princes of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler, One who will shepherd My people Israel."
- Matt 2:7 Then Herod, secretly calling the magi, determined accurately from them the time that the star appeared.
- Matt 2:8 And sending them to Bethlehem, he said, Go and find out accurately about the child. And when you find Him, report to me, so that I also may come and worship Him.
- Matt 2:9 And after they heard the king, they went their way, and behold, the star which they saw at its rising led them until it came and stood over the place where the child was.

- Matt 2:10 And when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.
- Matt 2:11 And they came into the house and saw the child with Mary His mother. And falling down, they worshipped Him; and opening their treasures, they offered gifts to Him, gold and frankincense and myrrh.
- Matt 2:12 And because they had been divinely instructed in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed by another way to their country.
- Matt 3:1 Now in those days John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea
- Matt 3:2 And saying, Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.
- Matt 3:3 For this is he who was spoken of through Isaiah the prophet, saying, "A voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight His paths."
- Matt 3:4 Now this John had his garment of camel's hair and a leather girdle around his loins, and his food was locusts and wild honey.
- Matt 3:5 At that time Jerusalem and all Judea and all the surrounding region of the Jordan went out to him,
- Matt 3:6 And they were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins.
- Matt 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, Offspring of vipers, who prompted you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce then fruit worthy of your repentance.
- Matt 3:8 And do not presume to say within yourselves, We have Abraham as our father; for I tell you that God is able, out of these stones, to raise up children to Abraham.
- Matt 3:10 And already the axe is laid at the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not produce good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire.
- Matt 3:11 I baptize you in water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is stronger than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He Himself will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire,
- Matt 3:12 Whose winnowing fan is in His hand. And He will thoroughly cleanse His threshing floor and will gather His wheat into the barn, but the chaff He will burn up with unquenchable fire.
- Matt 4:12 Now when He heard that John was delivered up, He withdrew into Galilee.
- Matt 4:13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is beside the sea in the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali,
- Matt 4:14 In order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying,
- Matt 4:15 "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles:
- Matt 4:16 The people sitting in darkness have seen a great light; and to those sitting in the region and shadow of death, to them light has risen."
- Matt 4:17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.
- Matt 4:18 And while He was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.
- Matt 4:19 And He said to them, Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of men.
- Matt 4:20 And immediately leaving the nets, they followed Him.
- Matt 4:21 And going on from there, He saw another two brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.
- Matt 4:22 And immediately leaving the boat and their father, they followed Him.
- B. Any thought of doing things miraculously in religion is a temptation of the devil—vv. 5-7.
- Matt 4:5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and set Him on the wing of the temple,
- Matt 4:6 And said to Him, If You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down; for it is written, "To His angels He shall give charge concerning You, and on their hands they shall bear You up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone."
- Matt 4:7 Jesus said to him, Again, it is written, "You shall not test the Lord your God."
- C. As the Physician and the Bridegroom, Christ is versus religion—9:12, 15.
- Matt 9:12 Now when He heard this, He said, Those who are strong have no need of a physician, but those who are ill.
- Matt 9:15 And Jesus said to them, The sons of the bridechamber cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? But days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

- D. The Lord Jesus does not care for religious tradition; He cares for inward reality—15:1-20.
- Matt 15:1 Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem, saying,
 Matt 15:2 Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.
 Matt 15:3 And He answered and said to them, Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?
 Matt 15:4 For God said, "Honor your father and your mother," and, "He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death."
 Matt 15:5 But you say, Whoever says to his father or his mother, Whatever you would have profited by me is now a gift to God,
 Matt 15:6 Shall by no means honor his father or his mother; and you have deprived the word of God of its authority because of your tradition.
 Matt 15:7 Hypocrites! Well has Isaiah prophesied concerning you, saying,
 Matt 15:8 "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart stays far away from Me;
 Matt 15:9 But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as teachings the commandments of men."
 Matt 15:10 And He called the crowd to Him and said to them, Hear and understand:
 Matt 15:11 It is not that which enters into the mouth that defiles the man; but that which proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man.
 Matt 15:12 Then the disciples came and said to Him, Do You know that the Pharisees were stumbled when they heard this word?
 Matt 15:13 And He answered and said, Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted shall be rooted up.
 Matt 15:14 Let them be. They are blind guides of the blind; and if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.
 Matt 15:15 And Peter answered and said to Him, Explain this parable to us.
 Matt 15:16 And He said, Are you also still without understanding?
 Matt 15:17 Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled into the drain?
 Matt 15:18 But the things which proceed out of the mouth come out of the heart, and those defile the man.
 Matt 15:19 For out of the heart come evil reasonings, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witnessings, blasphemies.
 Matt 15:20 These are the things which defile the man, but eating with unwashed hands does not defile the man.

II. Matthew 9:10-13 indicates that we may experience and enjoy Christ as the Physician:

- Matt 9:10 And as He was reclining at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and reclined together with Jesus and His disciples.
 Matt 9:11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, Why does your Teacher eat with the tax collectors and sinners?
 Matt 9:12 Now when He heard this, He said, Those who are strong have no need of a physician, but those who are ill.
 Matt 9:13 But go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice," for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.
- A. In calling people to follow Him for the kingdom, the Lord Jesus ministered as a Physician, not a Judge.
- B. A judge's judgment is according to righteousness, whereas a physician's healing is according to mercy and grace.
- C. Christ came to minister as a Physician, to heal, recover, enliven, and save us, so that we might be reconstituted to be His new and heavenly citizens, with whom He is establishing His heavenly kingdom on this corrupted earth.
- D. "But go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice'"—v. 13:
1. The Lord Jesus heals our spiritual illness, the illness of sin.
 2. Between sin and death there are all kinds of illnesses, diseases, and infirmities.
 3. The Lord Jesus forgives our sins and also heals us in every way.

4. As sinners, we are sick absolutely, for we are sick physically, spiritually, morally, and mentally, but Jesus, the Forgiver and the Physician, is able to heal all our sicknesses.
 5. As our Physician, the Lord heals us mainly in our spirit and in our soul, not mainly in our body.
 6. Although the Lord may or may not heal us in our body, He is always ready to heal us in every part of our spirit and soul.
 7. The healing of the Lord as our Physician is not mainly physical but spiritual; He is the One who heals our spiritual sicknesses.
- E. Paul's experience in his later ministry helps us to have a proper appreciation of Christ as the believers' Physician:
1. In 2 Timothy 4:20b Paul says, "Trophimus I left at Miletus sick."
 2. The apostle Paul left such an intimate one in sickness without exercising healing prayer for him.
 3. Paul also did not execute his healing gift (Acts 19:11-12) to cure Timothy of his stomach illness; rather, Paul instructed him to take the natural way for healing (1 Tim. 5:23).
 Acts 19:11 And God did works of power of no ordinary kind through the hands of Paul,
 Acts 19:12 So that even handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from his body to the sick, and their diseases left them, and the evil spirits went out.
 1 Tim 5:23 No longer drink water only, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.
 4. Paul encouraged Timothy to take a little wine, and he left Trophimus in Miletus.
 5. Paul cared for his co-workers in a very human way.
 6. The reason Paul cared for them in this way is that, in a time of suffering, Paul and his co-workers were under the discipline of the inner life rather than under the power of the outward gift.
 7. The former is of grace in life; the latter is of gift in power—miraculous power.
 8. Paul's experience should help us to see that, for the most part, Christ's healing today is for the spirit and the soul.
 9. If we see this vision, we will trust in Christ and experience Him as our Physician.
- F. As our Physician, Christ has healing authority:
1. His healing is not simply a matter of power but also of authority.
 2. There is no need for Him to touch us directly in order to heal us.
 3. He needs only to speak a word, and His authority comes with His word to heal us—
 Matt. 8:8.
 Matt 8:8 But the centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not fit for You to enter under my roof; but only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.
 4. Our Physician heals us with His authority.

III. In Matthew and Revelation Christ is revealed as the Bridegroom—Matt. 9:15; Rev. 19:7-9:

- Matt 9:15 And Jesus said to them, The sons of the bridechamber cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? But days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
- A. Matthew 25:1 is a further word concerning the Lord Jesus as the Bridegroom:
 Matt 25:1 At that time the kingdom of the heavens will be likened to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

1. This verse reveals that the Lord will come back as the Bridegroom, as the most pleasant and attractive person.
 2. The Bible reveals that Christ is God embodied to have the bride.
 3. Therefore, Christ's status is that of the Bridegroom.
 4. As the Bridegroom, He is the pleasant person for our enjoyment.
 5. We should appreciate Christ not only as our Physician for the recovery of life but also as our Bridegroom for a living enjoyment in His presence.
- B. Revelation 19:7-9 unveils Christ as the Bridegroom:
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousneses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
1. These verses reveal that the Lord Jesus is the Lamb as the Bridegroom.
 2. Christ is presented both as the Lamb and as the Bridegroom.
 3. In the Gospel of John, Christ is revealed both as the Lamb who came to take away sin and as the Bridegroom who came that He might have the bride.
 4. The Lamb is for redemption, and the Bridegroom is for the wedding.
 5. The redemption was accomplished by Christ as the Lamb of God, and the wedding will take place when Christ as the coming Bridegroom takes His bride.
 6. As the Bridegroom, Christ must have a wedding; our position is that of the bride, and the position of the coming Christ is that of the Bridegroom.
 7. We are on the earth being prepared to become the bride to meet Him, and He is on the throne in the third heaven prepared to come as the Bridegroom to meet us.
 8. He is coming as the Bridegroom, and we are going as the bride—Matt. 25:1.
 Matt 25:1 At that time the kingdom of the heavens will be likened to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom.