

The Prostitute Bride

Ken Stoltzfus, Winter 1978-79,
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An allegory, long, but best read in one sitting

I - A Beautiful Young Lady

A beautiful young lady
who seemed to be perfect in every way
was captured by a vicious and wicked man
who took her away into captivity.

A strong young man knew of her beauty and
worth
and determined to rescue her

After much careful planning
and at considerable risk
he rescued the young lady
and brought her to freedom

Her heart was filled with gratitude and love
and she accepted his proposal for marriage

He said, "I want to prepare a perfect place for
us to spend the rest of our lives together

"I will go away for a while
and get our place ready
then I will come back again
and we will be united for life

"Until I come
you may stay with my family
where you will have everything you need

"You will have food
and clothing
and shelter

"You will be protected from the cold and
storm
and from evil men who would be attracted
to your beauty
and misuse you

"I ask only that you keep yourself pure for me
and set your heart on the things that would
make us both happy"

The young lady promised to keep herself for
him
until he came back

She eagerly awaited his return
But
as the days turned into weeks
and the weeks into months
she began to lose her first-love

She would leave the safety of his family's home
and wander the streets of the city
making friends with the people there

She became aware of the desires of her body
and began to give herself to men
who were interested only in a fleeting moments
pleasure

At first she was conscience-stricken
and felt remorse for what she was doing
but she looked around her
and saw that "everyone else" was doing it too

And so
as time went on
and the groom tarried his coming
she became more and more at ease in her
waywardness

She even began to take money from men
who were eager to indulge themselves in her
beauty

She told herself, "I need this
to buy the necessities of life"

But she could never quite forget the young man's
words
"If you stay with my family
you will have everything you need"

One day the young man returned
with anticipation in his heart

He had completed the mansion for her

It was perfect in every way
and would fill her life with joy forever

He came to her with outstretched arms
expecting that she had kept herself for this
day

But the moment he saw her
he knew that something was wrong

She didn't have the glimmer in her eyes
that would show her joy in his coming

She tried to greet him warmly
but he knew that he had interrupted her life
and interfered with things that were more
important to her

He said, "I have come to take you home
to the mansion I have prepared for you
where we would live together forever

"But"
he said
"I see that you have not kept yourself for me
and you don't really delight in my coming

"My perfect and pure bride
has made herself a prostitute
to the wicked men of the city

"Therefore
you must leave the home of my family
and spend the rest of your life in the streets
of the city
where your kind of wickedness abounds
where there is cold
and storm
and hunger
where men will use you for their pleasure
with no respect for your real beauty and
worth

"And I will find another bride
who delights in my love
enough to keep herself pure for me"

II In the Beginning

In the beginning
God created the heavens and the earth

As a very special part of His creation
He made man and woman
even in His own image

One day Satan came
and through deceit
led man and woman into captivity

God was watching from heaven
and immediately announced that He would rescue
them
even if it meant death for His own Son

After several thousand years of careful planning
and at the expense of the life of His only Son
God rescued man and woman
and led them to freedom

Their hearts were filled with gratitude and love
and they accepted His request that they become
members of His family

The Son said, "I am going away for a while
to prepare a mansion for you
and I will come again
and will take you to Myself
that where I am
there you might be also

"Until I come
I will send another Counselor to be with you
and He will lead you into everything good

"I will see that you have everything you need
while you are awaiting My return

"You will have food
and clothing
and shelter
and will lack no good thing

"If there is anything you need
ask
in My Name
and I will see that you have it
that your joy might be full

"I ask only that you seek the things I seek
and keep yourself pure for Me"

The man and woman's hearts were overwhelmed
and they promised to keep themselves for Him
until He returned

But
as the days turned into weeks
and the weeks into months
they began to lose their first-love

They began to leave the safety of that place
where their minds were fastened on the One who
had rescued them

No longer anticipating His imminent return
they began to wander the streets of the world
and to make friends with the people there

They became aware of the desires within
themselves
the desire for riches
fame
prestige
security
and power

More and more they gave themselves to
these desires
knowing full well that they gave satisfaction
only for a little while

At first they were conscience-stricken
and felt remorse for what they were doing
because they knew it was displeasing to the
One who had rescued them
and Who was coming back for them soon

But
as they looked around them
they saw that "everyone else" was doing
these things too

And so
as time went on
and the One who had bought their freedom
tarried His coming
they began to feel more and more at ease
in these things

They even sought money above everything
else
saying to themselves "We need it to buy the
necessities of life"

But they could not quite forget the words of
the One who had rescued them

He had said to them
"Seek first the things of My Kingdom
and My righteousness
and all of the necessities of life will be given
to you"

One day their Savior returned
with anticipation in His heart

He had completed the mansion for them

It would be perfect in every way
and would fill their lives with joy forever

He came to them with outstretched arms
but the moment He saw them
He knew something was very wrong

They didn't have the glimmer in their eyes
that would show their joy in His coming

They tried to greet Him warmly
but He knew He had interrupted their lives
and interfered with things that were more
important to them

He said
"I have come to take you home to the mansion I
have prepared for you
where we would live together forever
"But"
He said
"I see you have not kept yourselves for Me

"You have not trusted in My provision for you
and you don't delight in My coming

"You
for whom I died
to set you free from the one who deceived you
and led you into captivity
have again been deceived
and been led astray from your first-love for Me

"My perfect and pure possession
for whom I died
have sold themselves into the wickedness around
them
for a fleeting moments pleasure

Even though you pretend to greet me warmly
you may not enter into My kingdom
which is reserved for those who have done what I
asked

"Therefore
depart from Me
ye cursed
into everlasting fire
which was prepared for the devil and his angels
those who held you captive before I set you free

"I will find the truly righteous
those who have done My will
and don't just call Me 'Lord'
and together
we will enter into My mansion forever"

III If it is Really True

If it is really true
that man is a special part of God's creation
that part alone which is privileged to have
fellowship with Him

And
if it is really true that
when man decided to reject this love
and scorn this fellowship
God did not reject him
but loved him enough to work through
several thousand years of history
to work out a plan for his redemption
by sending His only Son to literally bear the
punishment for all man's sins

And
if it is true that Jesus left this earth
for the express purpose of preparing a
place for us to spend forever with Him

If it is true
that heaven is a reality
and Jesus is there today
preparing an eternal home for us

And
if it is really so that
before He left
He promised to send a Counselor from
heaven to live inside us
and that Counselor came at Pentecost

And
if He has truly called us to be separate from
the world
and to be conformed to Himself
being changed into His likeness
more and more

If He asked us to deny the old fleshly desires
within us
and willingly bear our cross daily
cheerfully suffering abuse for Him
and the loss of things that bring pleasure for
only a fleeting moment

If He really meant what He said when He told
us
"As the Father sent Me
so send I you"

And
"Not everyone who says to Me
'Lord, Lord'
shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven
but only he who does the will of My Father
Who is in Heaven"

If His commandments stand
that we are to love one another
and that we are not forgiven if we don't
forgive

If Jesus wasn't only kidding when He said
"No one can serve two masters
for either he will hate the one and love the other
or he will be devoted to the one and despise the
other
you cannot serve God and mammon"

And
if the Bible is speaking to present day Christians
when it says
"As obedient children
do not be conformed to the passions of your
former ignorance
but as He who called you is holy
be holy yourself in all your conduct"

And if it is true that Jesus is literally coming back
again
soon
for His church
which is His bride
and taking only those who have set their hearts
and minds on Him
and who have kept themselves pure and
unspotted
and have looked for His return

And
if hell is a reality
and not just fiction
or some scare story
and if those whose lives do not show that they
love Him with all their hearts
will be thrown into the lake of fire
forever

Then - - - - - ?

IV - Then Why

Then why don't we more earnestly seek fellowship
with God?

And why do we reject the love that compelled Jesus
to die for us?

Why don't we think of heaven as a reality
and live now like we're getting ready to go there
instead of living like this world is all there is?

Why do we get so carried away by the cares of this
life
and exhaust ourselves physically
and drain ourselves spiritually
and literally destroy families
in the pursuit of this world's empty pleasures?

Why do we try to keep up with the ungodly
around us
for whom the things of life are the best they
will ever have?

Why are we so quick to accept the values
and goals of this world
which is ruled by Satan
the one who has eternally set himself
against God?

Why do we continue to make excuses for
ourselves
and try to justify sin in our lives?

Why do we prostitute ourselves
by using the gifts God gave us for His glory
to fulfill our own sinful lusts and passions
in the vain pursuit of self-fulfillment
instead of using them in His service
to His glory
and our lasting joy?

Why are we so often unconcerned about
denying the attitudes and habits of the old
sinful nature?

Why are we so ashamed of Christ
the One who left heaven
and came to this earth
to literally bear the punishment for our sin?

Why do we refrain from telling others about
Him
proclaiming His wonderful name
everywhere we go?

Why do we think we can do what we please
here on the earth
and get into heaven because we have gone
to church
or avoided certain evils
or done certain good deeds
or called ourselves "Christian"?

Why do we tolerate the jealousy
and bitterness
and resentment
that so fill our hearts at times?

Why do we allow the gossip
and complaining
and backbiting
that so divide us as God's family?

Why do we refuse to forgive each other?

Why is the thought of Christ's return distant to us
so distant that many of us don't even think about it
from one month to another?

Why have so many Christians dismissed hell as a
reality
both for those who call Him "Lord"
but don't obey Him
and for those who have altogether refused and
denied His rule in their lives?

V - It is Simply Because

It is simply because we have again been deceived
by the one who deceived Adam and Eve in the
garden
the one whom Jesus crushed by His death and
resurrection
for all who believe!

He who has ears to hear
let him hear

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Kidron, OH 44636 USA.