

Let Me Introduce You

“To the Bride of Christ”

PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

August 15, 2021

Thread: **What I think of the Bride of Christ matters a great deal to Jesus.**

¹⁶ *“Blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. ¹⁷ I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but they didn’t see it. And they longed to hear what you hear, but they didn’t hear it.”*
Matthew 13:16-17 NLT

¹⁸ *“Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: ¹⁹ The seed that fell on the **footpath** represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don’t understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. ²⁰ The seed on the **rocky soil** represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. ²¹ But since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God’s word. ²² The seed that fell among the **thorns** represents those who hear God’s word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. ²³ The seed that fell on **good soil** represents those who truly hear and understand God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”*
Matthew 13:18-23 NLT

Parable of the Wheat and Weeds

²⁴ *Here is another story Jesus told: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. ²⁵ But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. ²⁶ When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. ²⁷ The farmer’s workers went to him and said, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?’ ²⁸ ‘An enemy has done this!’ the farmer exclaimed. ‘Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked. ²⁹ ‘No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.’”*
Matthew 13:24-30 NLT

Parable of the Mustard Seed

³¹ *Here is another illustration Jesus used: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. ³² It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches.”*
Matthew 13:31-32 NLT

Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

⁴⁴ *“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. **Matthew 13:44 NLT***

⁴⁵ *Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. ⁴⁶ When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!*
Matthew 13:45-46 NLT

Parable of the Fishing Net

⁴⁷ *Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away. ⁴⁹ That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, ⁵⁰ throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **Matthew 13:47-50 NLT***

⁵¹ *“Do you understand all these things?”*
Matthew 13:51 NLT

Putting these things into practice:

- Check my heart
- Keep giving my heart to God regardless of what others are doing
- The Church exists for me and for OTHERS
- Intentionally sacrificing for the Kingdom’s work is my privilege
 - What do I have to work with? Time, talents, and treasure

“The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” Let anyone who hears this say, “Come.” Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life... ²⁰ He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon!” Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s holy people.”
Revelations 22:17-21 NLT

Challenges:

1. What do I think about the Bride of Christ?
2. What stands in my way of embracing the Church as Jesus’ Bride?
 - Time to resolve, forgive...
3. How can I make an impact as the Church this week, month, and years to come?
 - What TIME will I give?
 - What TALENTS will I offer?
 - What TREASURE will I sacrifice?
 - All these amount to a question of WHO will be impacted by me?

Check out these FREE online resources:

STUDIES BY DOUG BRITTON:

Love God, Love Others

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/love-god-others

Be an Encourager

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/encourage-others

Practice Generosity

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/generosity

SUMMIT UP DEVOTIONALS:

heightschurchonline.com/daily-devotionals/