

Your Throne, O Lord, is Forever

Sermon Text: Psalm 45

Study Texts: Ephesians 5:25-32

Sermon Recap: The main idea of this week's sermon is: The King of kings will be exalted forever. Take time before your growth group to review the key points you noted from today's sermon.

Sermon Connection: Psalm 45 is a royal wedding song written for the occasion of the wedding of the prince, the son of the king. In the Psalm, we see a great celebration for the son of the king is to be married. We see the splendor of his attire; he is arrayed in his full kingly dress; he awaits his bride. The bride is adorned for her husband; she is radiant; she is ready to become his wife; she is ready to find her new identity in him and in his people.

In the immediate context, Psalm 45 speaks of one of David's sons, Solomon perhaps. But, in the larger biblical context, the Psalm speaks of Christ as the Redeemer (Husband) of His people, the Church. Therefore, to consider this theme further, we turn to Ephesians 5 where Paul ties together Christ's role in salvation and the husband's role in marriage. Just as Jesus is the Bridegroom who honors and glorifies His Bride, so also the husband is to honor and glorify his wife as he leads her to know and love Jesus.

Lesson Plan

Lesson Goal: To see that husbands, following in the example of King Jesus, teach their wives to hope in God for salvation

Lesson Points:

Point 1: Husbands, Love Your Wives as Christ Loved the Church. (vv. 25-27)

Point 2: Husbands, Love Your Wives as You Love Yourself. (vv. 28-30)

Point 3: Husbands, Love Your Wives with the Gospel. (vv. 31-32)

The Context: Paul's letter to the Ephesians has two portions. The first is doctrinal (chps. 1-3) laying the foundation of salvation as being from God alone. In the second portion (chps. 4-6), Paul applies these truths to the Christian life. And specifically in 5:25-32, Paul applies and shows how the role of the Christian husband is to teach the world that Jesus saves.

Point 1 - Husbands, Love Your Wives as Christ Loved the Church. (vv. 25-27)

- In v. 25, how does Paul instruct husbands to love their wives?
- How does the hope of Psalm 45 provide insight into Paul's instruction in v. 25?
- In v. 26, Paul uses salvation language to describe how a husband is to lead and love his wife. What does it mean for a husband to "*sanctify*" his wife, and to cleanse her "*...by the washing of water with the Word*"?
- According to v. 27, what is the goal of every Christian husband? Why/how does this goal assure a measure of happiness and satisfaction for every Christian husband?

Point 2 - Husbands, Love Your Wives as You Love Yourself. (vv. 28-30)

- What does Paul mean in v. 28 saying that husbands should, "*...love their wives as their own bodies.*"
- How does the example of Jesus loving the Church help to clarify this otherwise self-interested approach to love?
- How does Psalm 45 help us to understand the picture of the gospel in marriage, also depicted in Ephesians 5?

Point 3 - Husbands, Love Your Wives with the Gospel. (vv. 31-32)

- Paul says in v. 31 that in marriage, a man and woman become one flesh. How does this reflect the bride's new identity from Psalm 45?
- Why does the leaving of one family for another help us to better understand what happens in the gospel?
- Psalm 45 is a teaching Psalm: Look to God, for He saves and He reigns. How can Christian marriage, and specifically the office of the Christian husband, serve to encourage both the wife and single adults to look to God for salvation?

The Big Picture - Marriage, a Picture of Salvation for All

Psalm 45 is a beautiful picture of how Jesus Christ saves His people from sin and brokenness. The gospel is not only salvation from sin, it is also salvation into God's glory. In Ephesians 5, Paul helps us to see that God designed marriage, not as salvation itself, but as a picture of the salvation that is found in Jesus Christ alone. The role of the Christian husband, then, is primarily one of knowing, loving, and showing Christ to his wife. As he leads and loves her, she will be brought to Jesus, and others will be encouraged to look to Jesus for salvation and grace.

Application Questions

- Husbands, how are you loving your wife like Jesus loves the Church?
- Husbands, how might you have misunderstood your role in the life of your marriage?
- Wives and families, how are you honoring and affirming your husband/father's role?
- As a growth group, how can you all affirm and encourage the husband's in your group to love Jesus more for the sake of one another and others?