

### **Messiah and His Bride**

- I. Psalm 45 in context
  - A. The historical context of Psalm 45
  - B. The emotional context of Psalm 45 follows the suffering of Psalm 44.
- II. The Glory of Messiah the King
  - A. His right hand teaches us awesome things.
  - B. He loves righteousness and hates wickedness.
- III. The Bride of Messiah the King
  - A. Her devotion to Him.
  - B. The King sees her as beautiful!

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**LEADERS:** Psalms 45 is a beautiful psalm in regards to how it describes the Messiah in all His majesty, mightiness, and righteousness, as well as His desire to be in union with His Bride, the Church. There is a ton of symbolism, prophecy and metaphors in this psalm, making it a very difficult text to draw questions from without a lot of set up. Please take time to do some reading and research on your own to prep for discussion time with your group. It will be beneficial for you in setting up the questions, or to tailor these questions, or your own questions to fit your group's dynamics. As always, thank you for taking on the role of facilitator. We absolutely could not have Growth Groups if it were not for you and many like you being willing to step up and serve.

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- \* Psalm 45 is a "Song of Love" - What is your favorite love song?
- \* Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## DIGGING DEEPER -

Earlier this year people millions watched the royal wedding between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Psalms 45 describes a different kind of Royal Wedding; one that is between the Coming King (Messiah) and His Bride (The Church). The questions this week will be based upon these two symbolic figures.

### The Glory of the Messiah the King - Please read Psalm 45:1-9

1. In **Psalm 45:1** we hear the author's elation to tell of the praises of the King. Describe the last time when you were excited like this to share about something happening or about someone in your life?

You as a leader might need to have an example ready to go to help prime the group's discussion. If you feel comfortable enough, you might even share something really goofy or corny that you really got excited about.

**Another approach to this question** - You may also want to add to the question of when was the last time people in your group got this excited about sharing God or Christ with people within their social & family circles. If it's been a while for you and the others, hopefully this Psalm will encourage you and your group to be more excited about what Christ means to us.

2. What does the psalm writer list as qualities in verses **Psalm 45:2-8** that makes The King "fairer than all the sons of men"?

"After a scribal introduction (Ps. 45:1), the king is heroically described as handsome and eloquent (Ps. 45:2), a mighty warrior (Ps. 45:3-5), a paragon of just sovereignty (Ps. 45:4,6,7), possessor of an eternal throne (Ps. 45:6), specially blessed by God (Ps. 45:7), and magnificently prepared for the wedding (Ps. 45:8-9)." (Ash)

3. "Grace is poured upon your lips"  
([www.biblestudyworkshop.com](http://www.biblestudyworkshop.com))

3. Pastor Darrell spoke of how the Messiah King anoints us with the "oil of gladness". In your life, or in other's lives, how have you seen righteousness lead to gladness?

When we are in right standing with God we avoid the pitfalls of guilt, shame, addictions, anger, hate, etc. It does not mean that we will not experience sufferings. But when we are aligned with God's standards we know that we can have joy and gladness through difficult times. Because we know that all of these earthly things are temporary and one day we will be united with Christ in heaven where there will no longer be any sufferings but only gladness.

## The Bride of the Messiah King – Please read Psalm 45:10-17

4. This week's message we heard how Psalm 45:10 directs the Bride to leave her family and past behind and to devote herself to the King. Why is complete devotion sometimes tough for many Christians?

Too many times we look back on our past lives and forget the devastation and enslavement we experienced until Christ delivered us from it.

So often we are like the Israelites who were delivered from Egyptian slavery. If you read in Exodus 16:1-3, you will see that the Hebrews had only been out of captivity for ONE MONTH when they started to complain and look longingly back to Egypt.

It would seem that starvation was more anticipated than experienced. In other words, they did not live through weeks and weeks of famine, nor did they see their family and friends die of malnutrition, or even have to kill all their livestock for food. Instead they started to feel hungry and anticipated starvation.

They went from singing to complaining very quickly.

Israel selectively remembered the past and thought of their time in Egypt as a good time. They lost sight of God's future for them, and they also twisted the past to support their complaining. This thinking is common among those who complain. (Guzak – [www.enduringword.com](http://www.enduringword.com))

It's amazing how the mind plays tricks and how the enemy capitalizes on this. These ex-slaves replaced memories of baking bricks under the blistering Egyptian sun with fantasies of croissants and filet mignon. And such is our tendency as well whenever we think of the lives we lived before we left Egypt, the brutal days in bondage before we were rescued, redeemed, and saved.

(Courson, J. (2005). *Jon Courson's application commentary: Volume one: Genesis–Job* (p. 281). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.)

5. Psalm 45:11 – “*So the King will greatly desire your beauty*” - The word desire is a strong feeling of wanting or wishing for something.

-Just for fun – share with the group the last thing you desired (vacation, car, a baby/grandbaby, a relationship, a raise, new home, some chocolate, etc.) Were you able to obtain it? If yes, how did you feel once you got it? If no, same question.

If no one jumps to answer this question, you should be prepared with an answer that is open and honest. Feel free to express the joy you felt or the disappointment you felt when you got what you desired....or if you didn't get what you desired.

-What kind of beauty does the King desire within us? **(Read 1 Peter 3:3-4)** How is the Church successful in displaying this beauty? Where has it failed? How do you think the Church could display more of this beauty to the world?

Incorruptible beauty only gets better with age, and is therefore of much greater value than the beauty that comes from the hair, jewelry, or clothing.

Peter described the character of true beauty – a gentle and quiet spirit. These character traits are not promoted for men or women by our culture; yet they are very precious in the sight of God. (Guzak-[www.enduringword.com](http://www.enduringword.com))

The Church has done a better job reaching outside of its walls, as the St. Joe serve motto states. We see teams of Christians all around the world giving their time, money, effort to serve the less fortunate. But sadly there are still Christians who refuse to dialog with anyone in opposition to their views. Not just outside the church, but within as well.

## TAKING IT HOME –

Psalms 45:16 & 17 are verses regarding the King's legacy with his Bride. Please take a moment this week to ask yourself this question – *“How am I pouring into the next generation on God's behalf and can I do more?”* Feel free to list below and take time to pray for God's continuing guidance in doing these things.

This question is meant to be answered away from Growth Groups. Please encourage your group to do take time to do this throughout the week.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** (be sure to save 15-30 minutes for prayer)

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**Thank you to everyone for your help with St. Joe Serve and 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Thanksgiving Box packing!! If your group hasn't done a G3 service project you might consider Bell Ringing. Sign ups start soon and slots fill quickly.**

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