**Feast with One Another**

2 Peter 3:8-16

**Good Morning Beloved,**

* There is an ancient story about a wise and beautiful woman named Penelope.
  + Beautiful princess… but most suitors cared only for the woman popularly known as Helen of Troy.
    - But one man was smitten with Penelope.
      * Odysseus… the King of Ithaca
        + Their son was named Telemachus.
    - Odysseus heads out to fight in the Trojan War.
      * After the war has been over for several years…
        + Several suitors begin to pursue Penelope.
  + These men wanted the throne of Ithaca.
    - If they married Penelope… and murdered her son… they could seize the kingdom for themselves.
      * How should the faithful wife of Odysseus respond…
        + As lies about her husband’s death grow everyday…
        + Threats toward her son are whispered in the shadows…
        + And scornfulness of the wicked increases?
* That mythical situation… describes the real tensions believers face between the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and his return in power.
  + How are we to live as we the Bride of Christ?
    - That is the focus of our passage today.

**Reading of God’s Word**

*8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*

*11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

*14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. 15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.*

**Preaching of God’s Word**

1. **The Spotless and Anticipating (vs. 8-14)**
   1. Beloved, you are the Bride of Christ.
      1. Your faithful King has triumphed over death for you.
         1. He is not some mythical figure who is entangled in a great odyssey and would have come for you sooner… but there was a cyclops and sirens.
   2. NO… we anticipate the arrival of All-powerful LORD of LORDS.
      1. In this season… do not lose your fidelity to your Husband.
         1. Rather… understand this…
   3. *8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.* 
      1. When you consider time… you might be express the lament in Psalm 13…
         1. *How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?*
         2. *How long will you hide your face from me?*
      2. At that moment of potential hopelessness… remember Psalm 90…
         1. *1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.*
         2. *2 Before the mountains were brought forth,*

*or ever you had formed the earth and the world,*

*from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*

* + 1. The eternal GOD is himself outside of time (Ps. 102:27; Dan. 7:9; Heb. 13:8; Rev. 1:4).
       1. There is no slackness… sloth… in God’s timing.
          1. Peter would have us know… there is perfect patience… so that we would not perish.

Calvin – “So wonderful is his love towards mankind, that he would have them all to be saved, and is of his own self prepared to bestow salvation on the lost.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

* + - 1. Meaning this… if you are hearing this sermon… God Almighty is calling you to repent… meaning turn away from the false suitors of this world… and look to your Maker.
         1. Then you will be able to say with the Prophet Isaiah (54:4ff)

*For your Maker is your husband,  
    the Lord of hosts is his name;  
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,  
    the God of the whole earth he is called.****6****For the Lord has called you  
    like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit,  
like a wife of youth when she is cast off,  
    says your God.****7****For a brief moment I deserted you,  
    but with great compassion I will gather you.****8****In overflowing anger for a moment  
    I hid my face from you,  
but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,”  
    says the Lord, your Redeemer.*

* + 1. Why should we be quick to repent?
  1. *10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*
     1. Dick Lucas – “God is the eternal Creator, who judges according to his moral law, and saves according to his covenant love.”[[2]](#footnote-2)
        1. The sudden and dramatic appearance of the Risen and Reigning King will bring about the grand renewal of all creation.[[3]](#footnote-3)
           1. As all creation has been groaning under the influence of sin… so in the coming of our Savior… his ever attentive gaze will find out (*heurethēsetai)* ever things done by men.
     2. Therefore, with sober gladness we read…
  2. *11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*
     1. Oh Beloved… we are to wait and hasten… the coming of the day of the Lord.
        1. The false teachers were depicted as slothful and in too much haste.
           1. Either… burning the candle at both ends or burned out…
        2. But here… Christians are both…
           1. Contented to wait…
           2. And Hastening (“hurrying by extra effort”)
     2. Why would Christians be both contented and… salivating?
        1. Because we will feast with the LORD in glory.
           1. In Peter’s life… he would have seen Jesus described this way….

“*The Son of Man came eating and drinking*…” (Matt. 11:19)

* + - 1. We now as disciples of Jesus are called to be…
         1. The faithful virgins anticipating the Bridegrooms arrival (Matt. 25) …
         2. The wedding guests who dress attend the banquet dressed in the apparel of our king (Matt. 22)…
         3. The heralds who scatter the countryside inviting all to sup with the LORD (Matt. 22)…
      2. Beloved… when we pray with one another… rest contented in one another’s company… and remind each other of the coming greatness of the new heavens and the new earth…
         1. We are hastening the kingdom of our GOD.
  1. *14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.*
     1. For you, beloved Bride… your bridegroom endured the cross…
        1. So that you would hear…
           1. Eph. 5:25-27 - *Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*
  2. Transition: Remember your faithful bridegroom’s promise… for there will be….

1. **The Scornful and Intruding (vs. 15-16)**
   1. *15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.*
      1. The wolves howl to interrupt the fellowship meal…. But they are intruders.
         1. They distort the scriptures… and twist them so that we would be scornful of our situation.
            1. Rather than scripture being used to interpret scripture… they use scripture to invalidate scripture.
      2. How to spot when the scornful and intruding have spoiled the feast…
         1. Is there murmuring or grumbling?
            1. Jeremiah Burroughs notes we can take God’s patience in giving us time to repent and use it as opportunities to twist things to our own destruction.

“I am troubled for my sin.”

“God withdraws himself from me.”

“It is men’s bad treatment that troubles me.”

“I never expected this affliction”

“My affliction is so great”

“My affliction is greater than that of others”

“If the affliction were any other, I could be content”

“My affliction makes me unserviceable to God”

“My condition is unsettled”

“I have been in a better condition”

* + 1. In contrast to the scornful and intruding twisting of Paul’s words…
       1. We rejoice… in this…
          1. Romans 8:22-25 - *22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

1. **Conclusion**
   1. Penelope knew that Ithaca needed a king… she knew her son was too young to take the throne… she heard the voices of the rival suitors.
      1. What should she do?
         1. She declares that she will choose a suitor after she weaves a shroud for her father-in-law.
            1. For three years… she would work during the day… then undo the work at night.
         2. Then she is exposed….
            1. The suitors settle in the house and begin to steal from Odysseus.
      2. At this point, a beggar urges Penelope to test the suitors.
         1. Can they bend Odysseus’s bow… and shoot through 12 axe heads?
            1. Not a single suitor can….

Then the beggar takes Odysseus’s bow… and with strength and skill preforms the feat that none could do.

The beggar reveals himself… Odysseus has returned… he uses his bow to strike down all the wicked suitors who threated his kingdom… his son… and his beloved bride.

* 1. Beloved, you have a much better story…
     1. You have the faithful and true Husband who will not only sudbdue all your enemies… but will also subdue your own heart to his grand pursposes.
        1. He has cleansed you of your faithlessness by his blood.
           1. He has dressed you in his righteousness thought his resurrection.

He has prepared a feast for you in his ascension.

* + 1. So as you eagerly anticipate your Maker coming again in glory… feast on Him in your heart by faith… repent of any less wild lover… cherish the wedding guests… and hasten his kingdom.
       1. No where is this more clearly seen and celebrated than at the Lord’s Supper…. It is to this sacrament that we now come.

**Prayer (2 Peter 3:17-18)**

*You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

**Benediction (2 Peter 1:2)**  
*May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

1. Commenatry on 2 Peter, 419 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Commentary on 2 Peter, 138 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The ESV Study Bible helpful summaries the truth that “Scholars have debated whether the NT speaks of an annihilation of the present cosmos and the creation of a new universe, or whether it indicates the transformation of the present cosmos, including the earth. The latter seems more likely in light of: (1) the preferred reading of this passage (see above); (2) Rom. 8:18–25; (3) many OT prophecies about the renewal of the earth; (4) Christ’s resurrection body being in continuity with his earthly body; and (5) the fact that Christ’s resurrection body is a pattern for the resurrection bodies of Christians (1 Cor. 15:12–58). God seems always to renew, not destroy and recreate, parts of his creation that are marred by sin. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)