

MEFC Community Group Study Questions

For the week of December 15th – 21st

Getting Started

1. Sin is described a number of different ways in the Bible: as idolatry (Deuteronomy 4:23; Ephesians 5:5), folly (Isaiah 44:18, 20; Proverbs 1:7), slavery (John 8:34), even disease (Isaiah 1:5-7; 53:5-6). Do any of these images ring true to you in your struggle with sin? If so, which one(s)? Why?

Digging Deeper

2. Of all the graphic illustrations of human sin in the Scriptures, it's possible that spiritual adultery is among the most pervasive. God regards himself as the husband of his people, and therefore our sin is never a victimless crime - it is always spiritual adultery. Ponder some of these passages together on the front end of our study in order to get a sense of just how prevalent this theme is in the Bible. How does your heart respond to this relentless Old and New Testament teaching?

Exodus 34:11-16; Leviticus 17:7; 20:4-6; Numbers 15:38-40; Deuteronomy 31:16; Judges 2:16-17; 8:27, 33; Hosea 1-3; Isaiah 1:21; 57:3; Micah 1:7; Jeremiah 2-3; 13:20-27; Ezekiel 16; 23; 1 Corinthians 6:15-17; 2 Corinthians 11:1-3; Ephesians 5:31-32; James 4:4; Rev. 14:4; 19:6-9a; 21:1-3, 9-10; 22:17

Open Your Bible to Psalm 45...

3. The superscription to Psalm 45 designates it as "A Love Song." Whether originally composed for Solomon or one of the kings of Israel that followed, this is an example of a royal wedding poem presented to the groom and his bride. Read verse 1 together and discuss it. The NIV captures the language aptly when it says: "My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer." What's he saying? What do you appreciate about the word choices of the psalmist? What's happening in the heart of this artist on this occasion?
4. Verses 2-9 contain a vivid sketch of both the character and competencies of the king. As Jesus is the true Messiah of Israel, how are these verses a uniquely fitting portrait of him? Consider the following truths. Bearing in mind the composite track record of Israel's kings, could anyone other than Christ himself truly fulfill this description?

"...grace is poured upon your lips..." (Psalm 45:2; John 1:14, 16-17; Luke 4:22)

"Gird your sword...In your majesty, ride out victoriously (Psalm 45:3-4a; Revelation 19:11, 15)

"...for the cause of truth and meekness..." (Psalm 45:4; John 1:17; Matthew 11:29; 2 Corinthians 10:1)

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever..." (Psalm 45:6; Hebrews 1:8)

“...you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness...” (Psalm 45:7a; Revelation 2:4-6)

“Therefore God, your God, has anointed you...” (Psalm 45:7b; Luke 4:17-18)

5. Verses 10-17 are mainly directed toward the bride who is to marry the great king. As followers of Jesus are depicted throughout the Bible as the bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:22-24, 25-33; Revelation 19:6-9a; 21:1-3, 9-10; 22:17), it's appropriate that we cast ourselves into the role of the bride in this portion of Psalm 45.

Discuss both the duties and descriptions of the king's beloved in these verses. What are they telling us?

“Hear, O daughter and consider and incline your ear...” (Psalm 45:10a; Luke 8:8b)

“...forget your people and your father's house...” (Psalm 45:10b; Matthew 10:34-39)

“Since he is your Lord bow to him...” (Psalm 45:11b; Philippians 2:10-11)

“All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold. In many-colored robes she is led to the king...” (Psalm 45:13-14a; Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 19:7-8)

“The people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts; the richest of the people...her virgin companions following behind her. With joy and gladness, they are led along as they enter the palace to the king. In place of your fathers shall be your sons; you will make them princes in all the earth. I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore, nations will praise you forever and ever.” (Psalm 45:12, 14b-17; Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 5:9; 7:9-10).

6. The last time we, as the people of God, are mentioned in the Bible is Revelation 22:17. How are God's people depicted? What are they doing and with Whom are they doing it? Therefore, what is our role in this moment of time - especially in the midst of the Advent season as we draw near to Christmas?

Sermon Notes for 12/15/19

Psalm 45

“Splendor & Majesty”

If you hunger for the marriage supper of the Lamb at the second Advent, consider Psalm 45 an hors d'oeuvre

**This is one royal wedding you're not gonna wanna miss...*

1. Our King is _____ (vv.1-9; Hebrews 1:8)

2. Our calling is _____ (vv.10-17; Rev. 19:6-9; 21:9; 22:17)

Next Week: Psalm 96 - “The Lord Reigns!” - 4th Week of Advent