

Remnant Life Church
December 1, 2013
“Preparing for the Coming of the King”
Part 1
Revelation 19:11-17

- Sometime in March or April a little over 2000 years ago there were people preparing for the coming of a King
 - Today, we as a church are preparing for the coming of a King
 - 2000 years ago there were a select group of people who knew what was about to happen
 - Mary and Joseph
 - Three wise men or scholars – Melchior; a Persian scholar – Gaspar; an Indian scholar – Balthazar; an Iranian scholar
 - King Herod and his astronomers
 - Moses, Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, David all wrote prophetic words hundreds of years earlier of the event
 - Today, we all know that Jesus is going to return
 - **Rev. 19:11-17** *I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*
 - He came the first time as a baby
 - He comes again as a warrior
 - He came the first time bringing love and salvation
 - He comes the second time bringing judgment
 - He came the first time to begin the defeat of sin and Satan
 - He comes the second time to finish it
1. Joseph and Mary had to prepare for the coming of Jesus
 - a. It began with the discovery of a painful truth
 - b. Mary and Joseph were engaged – not married, not sharing a home
 - c. Mary was pregnant but not by Joseph
 - d. He had decisions to make
 2. Joseph was a righteous man (Matt 1:19)
 - a. Only a few men are referred to in this way
 - i. The first was Noah
 - b. Both Joseph and Mary had shown themselves worthy of the singular great honor of raising the Christ-child
 - c. What is righteousness?
 - i. **I John 3:7** - ...he who does what is right is righteous...
 - ii. Righteousness is lived by those who want to always do the right thing

- iii. It is about choice
 - 1. Choosing to do what pleases God
 - 2. Often choosing to ignore what we may want in the flesh
- iv. Righteous people make their decisions
 - 1. Not on what makes them feel good
 - 2. Not to help them achieve their own goals and agendas
 - 3. Because it is the right thing to do even when it may hurt them
 - 4. **Psalms 15:4** – *(who may dwell on the mountain of the Lord?) one who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the LORD; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind;*
 - 5. A righteous man or woman does not make decisions based on what is best for them but on what will please God
- d. Nothing demonstrated Joseph's righteousness more than how he responded to Mary
 - i. They were not yet married but this still appeared as a great betrayal both to him privately as well as publically
 - 1. The concept of the engaged bride preparing for the bridegroom
 - 2. **Song of Solomon** – the song of the beloved
 - 3. **Matthew 25** Jesus' teaching about being ready for the Kingdom as the brides wait for the bridegroom
 - 4. **Rev. 19:7** - *Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.*
 - ii. His first knowledge of what Mary had done came before the angel appeared to him and explained what had happened
 - 1. According to the law he had the right to take her into the town square and have her stoned to death
 - 2. But he was a righteous man and that meant making a decision that probably didn't go with how he felt
 - 3. Instead he wants to quietly "divorce" her or cancel their intended wedding in order to protect her dignity
 - 4. Biblical righteousness is partially defined with how we treat others – even those who don't deserve to be treated well
- e. Righteousness is also defined in how we treat God with how we live
 - i. Willful sin allowed to stay in our lives will deny us righteousness
 - ii. Purity of thought and action will demonstrate how you treat God
 - iii. We can only approach that with His help
 - 1. We humble ourselves and ask Him
 - 2. **2 Chron 16:9** – *...the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are full committed to him...*

3. The problem is with us

- a. Who in here this morning is sinless? No one
- b. Who here this morning has never had thoughts run through your mind that you know if you spoke them or acted on them would grieve the heart of God?
 - i. **Rom 3:23** – *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
 - ii. **Ecc 7:20** – *There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.*

- c. Joseph, Mary, the disciples, NO ONE is righteous without the saving grace of God – and THAT’S the reason Jesus came to begin with.
 - i. **I Peter 3:18** – *Christ died for sins once and for all the righteous for the unrighteous to bring you to God.*
 - ii. **Rom 5:19** – *...through the obedience of the one man (that’s Jesus) the many (that’s us) will be made righteous.*
- d. The world’s view on righteousness is different than that
 - i. Theirs is based on what you do to earn the good that people think of you while burying all the bad out of sight
 - ii. If I don’t get caught then it never happened
- e. Righteousness can only be obtained one way and one way only
 - i. Believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God
 - ii. Repent of your sins and acknowledge your need for Him in your life
 - iii. Ask Him to come into your life as Lord and Savior
 - iv. Confess or demonstrate what He has done in you by changing the way you live
 - v. Why do this?
 - 1. Because we have His promise that...
 - 2. **I John 1:9** – *If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- f. For those of us who are already Christians we take our comfort from these words
 - i. **1 John 2:1** – *My little children, these things I write to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*
- g. Jesus was nailed to the cross in front of many people including His mother
 - i. The Bible does not tell us her reaction to seeing this
 - ii. Might she have been thinking back to the whole reason she had been given the honor of being His mother in the first place?
 - iii. She had been prepared for this time since His birth
- h. Jesus is coming again!
 - i. We, the church, are His bride
 - ii. Are you ready for Him to come or will you miss it and spend eternity apart from Him?