



“Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, **set your sights on the realities of heaven**, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.” (Colossians 3:1–4 NLT-SE)

**The Three Offices of Jesus:**

- ☑ **Prophet** - Matt 4:17
- ☑ **Priest** - Heb 4:15
- ☑ **King** - Matt 25:31

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. **He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity.** The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!” (Isaiah 9:6–7 NLT-SE)

**ISSAC BENNETT - The Victorious Church: Overcoming Deception** (Sept. 5, 2021 - IHOPKC—Second Service)

And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by **the blood of the Lamb** and by **the word of their testimony**; they did not **love their lives so much as to shrink from death**. (Rev. 12:7–11 NIV)

- **God will prepare a Church who is victorious and overcomes the deception of this age.** She will be victorious and reign with Christ in His Kingdom. The Spirit is working to



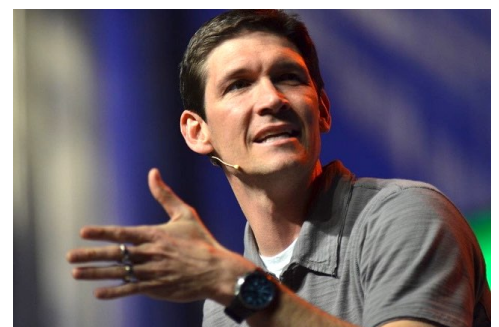
Issac Bennett ~ IHOPKC

prepare the Bride for the great wedding day of the Lamb. She will be made mature in love and holiness.

- Jesus warned of **extraordinary deception** which would increase as the nations unified around ungodly values. Rulers and cultural influencers will seek to drive the influence of the Word of God from society (Ps. 2:2, 3) leading to lawlessness and the destruction of the faith for many.
  - Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, (Matt. 24:12 NIV)
- Scripture prophesies a **global departure from the Christian faith** as one of the key themes of the generation of the Lord's return. The access to evil and darkness will cause many to err, their love for Christ growing cold.
  - Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. (1 Tim. 4:1 NLT-SE)
- **John was shown an overcoming Church.** A victorious Church. **3 Keys** to overcoming: **Cross of Jesus, the glory of fellowship, and an eternal mindset.**

#### - LAST WEEK'S DIP INTO THE POOL OF "THE GLORY OF FELLOWSHIP"

- **What is going on?** It may have sounded like I might have been "treading water" in a pool of self-pity. Not so. I simply felt the need to be honest and open about the current struggles I have been experiencing. My hope was that you would see that these are struggles we are ALL experiencing and they are not an illusion, not made up, but a **reality**. Life has definitely been very hard, but very good as well. So, the focus of last week's message was on **the realities of this life**.
- When I heard Issac Bennett interpret "**the word of their testimony**" in Revelation 12:11 as "**the glory of fellowship,**" I thought about our invitation to join in the "Wedding Feast of the Lamb" in Revelation 19. I know, a bit convoluted, but look at it as an adventure!
- **This Wedding Feast** is a very important meal. Hear is another "meal" to remember...
  - The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. **You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.** You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever. (Psa. 23:1-6 NLT-SE)
- **Feasting is about much more than food.** Feasting is also about relationships, hospitality, celebration and preparation for what's coming. It's also a lost art in the American culture. We have become so isolated from our friends and family, it takes a crisis or major holiday to get us to feast. Biblical relationships were almost always enjoyed around a table.
  - The Lord presides over a meal as a host, a war has rendered all enemies powerless to harm. Psalm 23 and Revelation 19 are companion pieces in the exposition of salvation, showing forth the two elements: **rescue** from the catastrophe of the shadow of death; **hospitality** at a table where we are made a home with the intimacies of goodness and mercy. ~ Eugene Peterson
  - **Matt Chandler** made this very encouraging observation... "**What we do consistently and together is what forms us.**" By intentionally and consistently gathering together for a meal. This IS "the glory of fellowship." This is "the word of our testimony."



Matt Chandler ~ Village Church

- **THE POWERFUL IMPACT OF OUR ACTIONS:** Plundering the Enemy's Camp
  - Jesus **"bound the strongman" AS he was "Doin' the stuff"** ("Thank you, John Wimber!")
    - In Mark 3, Jesus's mission is under attack. After announcing the coming of God's kingdom (Mark 1:14–15), **he begins to heal the sick, cast out demons, teach with authority, call disciples, and even forgive sins.** But not everyone is happy with him. In Mark 3:22–27 the scribes challenge the source of Jesus's authority, claiming it comes from Beelzebul, the prince of demons (Satan). In response, Jesus points out that his attacks on the kingdom of Satan invalidate the accusation that he's working with Satan.
      - After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. **"The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"** (Mark 1:14–15 NIV)
      - The teachers of religious law who had arrived from Jerusalem said, "He's possessed by Satan, the prince of demons. That's where he gets the power to cast out demons." Jesus called them over and responded with an illustration. "How can Satan cast out Satan?" he asked. "A kingdom divided by civil war will collapse. Similarly, a family splintered by feuding will fall apart. And if Satan is divided and fights against himself, how can he stand? He would never survive. Let me illustrate this further. **Who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house.** (Mark 3:22–27 NLT-SE)
    - **Jesus says he came to bind the strong man** (that is, Satan) in order that he himself, **as the stronger man** (cf. Mark 1:7), might plunder Satan's house. This is Jesus's own explanation of the events we encounter in Mark 1–3.
    - Wisdom would say that, since Jesus gave us permission to "bind and loose," we should do as much "binding and loosing" as we can. Unfortunately, many "binders and loosers" say the words, but lack the power to actually "bind and loose." The **key** to biblical "binding and loosing" is to use **the words of Jesus, to do the works of Jesus, in the power of Jesus.**
    - **When the strongman is bound** (when the power of Jesus is manifest), **his house can be plundered.** The definition of plunder is: "To take the goods of by force, or without right; to pillage; to spoil; to sack; to strip; to rob." So, **what is the plunder?**
      - The **redemption** of human souls (John 8:31-34)
      - The **freedom** to enjoy our relationship with God (Ps 37:4)
      - The **spiritual growth** that comes with Jesus being Lord of your life (2 Pet 1:3, Eph 3:20)
      - The **satisfaction** and **peace** that comes with knowing you are doing the Father's will (Rom 12:1-2)
      - The **love** that grows out of Christlike relationships with each other (John 15:12, Rom 12:9-10)
    - The "reality of heaven" is that **we have the authority to plunder the enemy's house, right here, right now!**
  - So, here's a little **clarity** concerning what was unfolding with last week's message:
    - We were opening the door to "the glory of fellowship" **with the Lord** as I agreed to trust him with my hurts, frustrations and disappointments.
    - We were also opening the door to "the glory of fellowship" **with you, the body of Evangel**, by walking in humility and authenticity which is always a good thing.
    - I think we were also opening the door to "the glory of fellowship" with **the future of CitiServe**. Personally, I was experiencing thoughts and feelings that are likely similar to what the pastors and leaders this new ministry will be reaching out to might be feeling. What a ride!
    - So, "the word of our testimony," under Issac's definition, would really be... **the glory expressed when we walk closely with the Lord and each other.** The Wedding Supper of the Lamb is an extraordinary "dinner" that we

have been invited to participate in. When we “dine” with each other now, we are “tasting” the spirit of the age to come. What a joy! What splendor! What a feast and what a battle!

- **The enemy HATES our fellowship with God and each other.** More than that, when we intentionally and consistently fellowship with God and each other, **we are literally binding the strongman and plundering his house of deception!**

## TO WRAP THIS UP, LET'S GAZE UPON THE BEAUTY OF REVELATION 19

### - The Wedding Feast of the Lamb

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. 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. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “These are the true words of God.” At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

### - The Rider On A White Horse

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 makes 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. Out of his mouth comes 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. (Rev. 19:1–16 NIV)

## HOMECOMING

*Gable Price & Cory Asbury*

Lord, I confess that I've been a criminal  
I've stolen Your breath and sang my own song  
And Lord, I confess that I'm far from innocent  
These shackles I wear, oh, I bought on my own

These scarlet sins had a crimson cost  
You nailed my debt to that old rugged cross  
An empty slate, at the empty grave  
Thank God that stone was rolled away

Lord, I confess, I've been a prodigal  
Made for Your house, but I walked my own roads  
Then Jesus came He tore down my prison walls  
Death came to life when He called me by name

And I can see it now, smiling in Heaven, You and I

And I see bright, crimson robes draped over the ashes  
A wide, open tomb where there should be a casket  
The children are singing, and dancing, and laughing  
The Father is welcoming, this is our homecoming

Roses in bloom pushed up from the embers  
Our rivers of tears flow from good times remembered  
Families are singing, and dancing, and laughing  
The Father is welcoming, this is our homecoming

Heaven joins in with a glorious sound  
And the great cloud of witnesses all gather 'round  
'Cause the ones that were lost are finally found  
The Father is welcoming, this is our homecoming

Can you see it now?  
Standing on the shores of Heaven  
You and I, and our families  
Singing, and dancing, and laughing  
There's truly no place like home  
Jesus, You're so beautiful  
Haha, see Him face to face!