

MAKE READY

WILLIS 8/29/10

Rev 19:7-9

I felt it only proper and necessary to somehow follow up what John Kelly sowed into us at Family Camp. Though it would be nearly impossible to follow John, his overall theme fits hand in glove with where I sensed the Lord is taking us.

- **Breaking Barriers and Expanding Boundaries was the theme of Family Camp.** Understanding the breaking of barriers and the expanding of boundaries is not an end in itself, the question at hand is why?
- Why are we to break barriers and expand boundaries? Why can't we just be satisfied with what we have?
- **The reason we can never become satisfied with what we currently have is we are being prepared for something that is infinitely more than what we now have.**
- The breaking of barriers and the expanding of boundaries has to do with the preparation of the Bride of Jesus Christ.
- **A Bride who makes herself ready because she was able to break out of all self imposed barriers and step into the limitless boundaries of her groom Jesus Christ.**

Rev19:7-9

In my 25 years of ministry I have been involved with enough weddings to understand no bride gets married without an intense season of preparation.

- Months ahead of time the bride especially is stressing about all what needs to be done to make ready...fashions, flowers, food and facilities not to mention, people, programs, processions and the most difficult of all...preachers.
- In fact we have 4 weddings coming up in the next few months. I would like to ask these 4 Brides to come up here for a moment. Morgan, Carry, Emily and Katie.
- **Preparation is not a luxury when it comes to weddings it is an absolute necessity.** Yet when it comes to the Bride of Christ who is at this time to be making herself ready, there seems to be an "it'll all work out...love will make a way" naivety.
- **As we see in Rev19, readiness is the disposition of the Bride not naivety. Jesus is returning for a Bride who has made herself ready by breaking down all of her barriers and expanding all of her boundaries.**

In fact it could be easily argued, the purpose of life is to make ready. Problems, conflicts, crisis...they all make ready. The good, the bad, the ugly...they are all opportunities in the life of the Bride to make herself ready.

- Every perceived failure is in fact a lesson on readiness. Every hurt, every rejection, every victory, every triumph in life serve to make ready a Bride fit for a King.
- **Readiness is the “summun bonum” for those seeking to live to the praise of His glory.** Readiness of the Bride is the highest good for those who have in mind the things of Christ.
- Jesus said of John the Baptist “of those born of women no one was greater than John the Baptist.” John’s only claim to fame was, “He was a voice of one crying in the wilderness; make ready the way of the Lord.”

Lk12:35 “Be dressed in readiness...” Readiness is so central to the eternal purpose of God that it is the very disposition Jesus left the Church in before He left.

- How prepared should the Church be after 2000 years of being dressed in readiness? Instead we have clothed ourselves in a “Kuna Matata” no worries, love will make a way wardrobe.
- **Love will make a way...it makes a way right back to a lifestyle of readiness where we are 100% committed to the breaking of any and all barriers that would hinder the mandate to make ourselves ready.**

So in these next ensuing weeks we want to look at some of those barriers that must be broken and look even deeper at the boundaries that must be expanded for us to be the bride who makes herself ready.