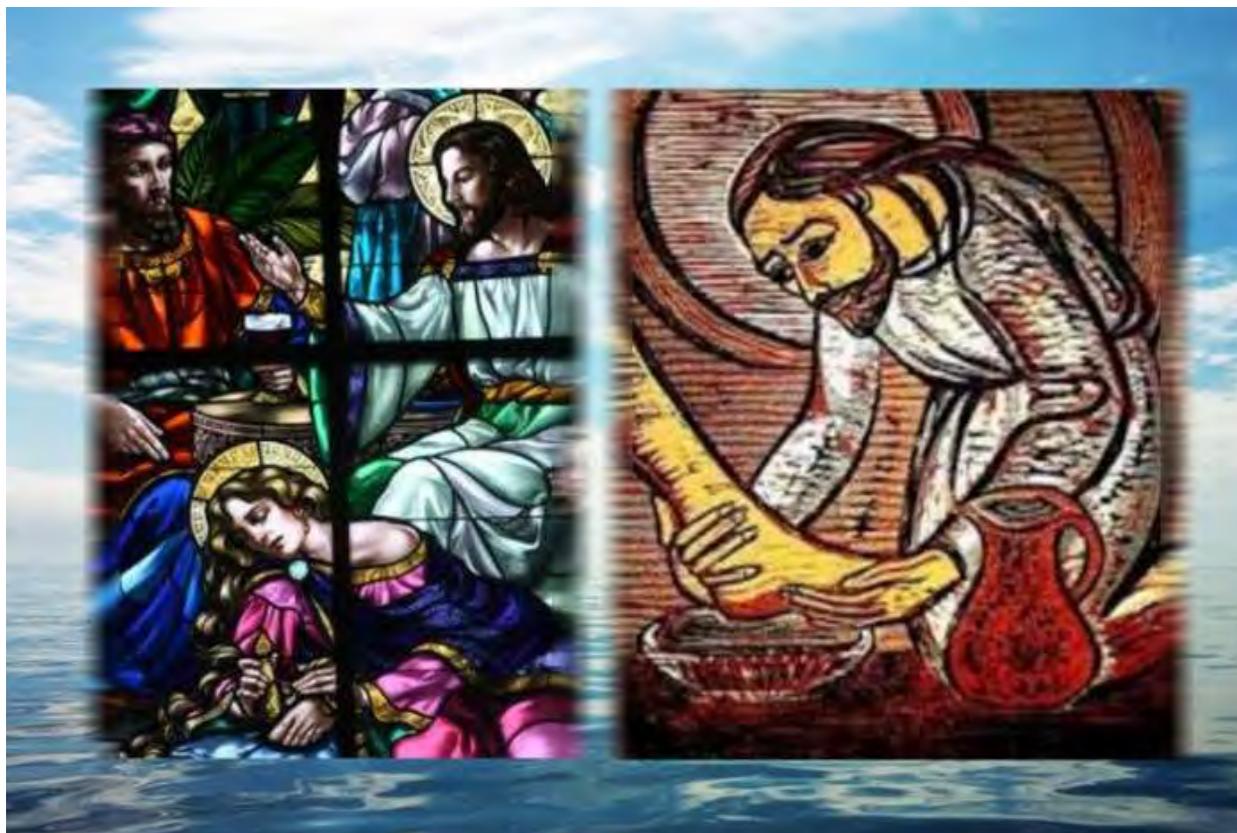


The Way 8: God's Purpose for Jesus' Marriage

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December 14, 2016



By understanding Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we can comprehend the Second Advent. The Holy Spirit is the Bride of Christ, free of Satan's accusation. She is our mother, who is one with God. Through God-centered marital love between Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn as their spiritual children. This began at Pentecost.

But True Father's revolutionary insight is that it should have happened physically with Jesus and his Bride on Earth. God-centered marital love was to have been embodied. Jesus and his physical Bride were to have given us both spiritual and physical rebirth. Jesus speaks of this in the Gospels.

He was giving Nicodemus sex education in John 3. You must be reborn just as you were born, with your father in your mother's womb. Nicodemus sensed correctly Jesus was talking about going into his mother's womb. He recoiled, and Jesus could go no further.

In John 6, Jesus said, "eat my flesh, drink my blood." He was saying, I am your father, become part of my body, for my flesh "gives life to the world." Again, the people recoiled.

In all this, he was talking about engrafting into him through the womb. It means to merge lineages, and how do lineages merge? Through marriage.

Jesus and his physical Bride would have joined their lineage, which would have been God's lineage, to their followers as couples. The John 4 account of the woman at the well, to whom Jesus offered the living water on the condition that she bring her husband, foreshadows this.

But no one understood. They saw a woman of ill-repute wash his feet, and accused him. Yet he was the one to articulate, in Matthew 19, God's standard of no divorce. When the people recoiled, he told them that to find God, they would have to make themselves eunuchs.

At the Last Supper, Jesus engrafted his disciples as children, not couples. He washed their feet, a baptism. He freed Judas to betray him—a raven circling. He then sanctified and shared bread and wine as his flesh and blood, and said he would not again drink of the fruit of the vine until his return.

He returns to fulfill the predestined marriage Blessing. This is the mission of the Lamb and his Bride today.

(References: Exposition of Divine Principle pp. 170-2; Gal 4:26, John 3:1-12, 6:50-60; 1 Peter 1:23, 1 John 3:9; Lk 7:37-44, Mt 19:4-6; Mk 14:17-25, Jn 13:1-17.)