

## 8-28-22 Facilitator the Bridegroom and Lord, Mark 2:18-3:6, Tim Rice

### 1. **Launchers: Who is the most joyful person you know? And why are they?**

### 2. **Worship the Lord, our Maker who is our Husband.**

Read the following passages from our call to worship and assurance of pardon. Praise and worship God that He is ours and we are His in this special covenant bond of marriage.

*Isaiah 54:4 "Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more. 5 For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.*

*Isaiah 62:4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. 5 For as a young man marries a young woman... and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.*

*Ezekiel 16:8 "When I passed by you again and saw you, behold... I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine.*

### 3. **Sermon Reflection: The Bridegroom and Lord, Mark 2:18-3:6**

#### THE GOSPEL vs. RELIGION DIFFERENTIAL

- How is the Gospel diametrically opposed to religion?
- What is your sense of "Christian" culture and how have we perpetrated a *lie*?
- Jesus pairs joy with marriage as a picture of His intimate relationship.
  - Are you experiencing that kind of intimacy with Him? Why and why not?

#### THE LORD WHO SAVES

- Why is Jesus different from every other leader?
- Jesus doesn't pretend that we're right with His Father when we're not.
  - How aware are you of being alienated, weary or lame?
- **Jesus wants to marry us in a Covenant of love!** He agonized in torment *to give us rest*; and He achieved the full acceptance we all crave.

#### A LIFE OF REST & JOYFUL PURPOSE

- What does joy mean to you?
- What does rest mean to you?
- How does the world, your flesh and the devil offer definitions of joy and rest that fuel your sense of purpose but leave you ornery and exhausted?
- How does Jesus supply you with joy and rest that then fuel your sense of purpose as love and sacrifice for others?

### 4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: You can pray with us**

1. Worship the LORD, our Maker who is our Husband. Praise Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that He is a committed, tender Bridegroom, loving toward us when He does not need us

2. How have you lived believing that you have to earn God's acceptance or even believing that can do it? Confess your pride and arrogance to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you for doubting Him and His work to save sinners.

3. Give thanks to Jesus for His commitment to you (like a Bridegroom), His work for you (to give you true rest), and His power (to make you whole). Thank Him for His saving Grace that frees you up now to just pursue Him and others in love.

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4. Who do you know that is trapped in the joyless misery of religion? Pray for them, asking the Lord to have mercy on them as He has on you, that they would see their need for Him and see His mercy to all who trust Him.

5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and faithfulness. Pray for such joy at being redeemed and wed to Jesus, that you would overflow in eager obedience and energized purpose for your Bridegroom.

### 5. **Mission:** Christians are people who rest and work, rest and work.

Read the following notes below and as you finish note # 3 spend some time praying and sharing with each other the keys to your work-rest, one day in seven, realignment and renewal practices. Maybe even rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10. What are your best practices and what changes need to be made?

Application: Tim's Sermon Notes:

1. *Only Jesus actually accomplished what the original Sabbath rest anticipated – God Himself worked everything out to completion so that in Him, we're actually given rest in Christ.*

2. *By being Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus did not imply that there is no more Sabbath; rather He defines what our time should be about.* So how do you neglect or break the Sabbath?

3. Consider the gift of one day in seven being marked off as irreplaceable or incomparable! *Out of this realignment and renewal, we prepare for the next cycle of work!*

### 6. **Jesus From Others**

Close your time together in letting each person share something they came to love about Jesus from something someone in the group shared during your time together.

- What do you love more about Jesus from what someone shared during our CG tonight?