

Beautiful Way 7

Beauty for Ashes

Study given by W. D. Frazee - May 31, 1965

Turn to Revelation the nineteenth chapter. There is a wedding that is about to take place. You and I are invited to share in it. But, like every wedding, this takes some preparation. That is what we are interested in:

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready” Revelation 19:7.

The bride is getting ready. And as soon as the bride is ready the Bridegroom will come. I wonder what it is going to take to get her ready. That is what we want to study this morning, a bit, as we continue this study of beauty, the beautiful way.

This bride, my dear friends, will be in the eyes of Jesus, and in the eyes of all the universe, the most beautiful object:

“And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints” Revelation 19:8.

What does she wear? Righteousness. What is righteousness? Right doing. All the righteousness we shall ever wear is the righteousness of Jesus.

But, my dear friends, there is a world of difference in the experience between simply having that righteousness imputed to us, accounted to us - I say a world of difference between simply having that and having the experience of actually living that righteousness; having that righteousness worked out in us.

The thief on the cross got the full benefit of imputed righteousness. The remnant church will get the full benefit of imputed and imparted righteousness. That is very practical. It enters into all the details of our life - our diet, our dress, music, reading, association, recreation, amusements, education, child training. Everything in life is to be a matter of living out the righteousness of Jesus. He is teaching us His way, and giving us His power to live that life. And so it is written:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and have the faith of Jesus” Revelation 14:12.

Isaiah 52:1, 2, I want another picture of these beautiful garments. Here is the invitation of Jesus to Zion, Jerusalem, His bride, the only object in this world on which He bestows His supreme regard:

“Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city” Isaiah 52:1.

Ah, you see the garments given to this bride? The second verse:

“Shake thyself from the dust” Isaiah 52:2.

God help us to do it friends, get rid of the dust of this world. What do you say?

“Arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion” Isaiah 52:2.

And let me say, dear friends, those captive bands, whether they are of steel, or of silver, or of gold, must be broken before we can be robed fully in those beautiful garments of the righteousness of Christ. The things of this world, the fashions of this world, the customs of this world, they are captive bands that hold us in slavery to Satan. Jesus says to His church, “Break those bands.” “Shake thyself from the dust.” “Arise, put on your beautiful garments.” Oh, that God may help us to put off the world and put on Jesus’ beautiful life. What do you say?

The forty-fifth Psalm. We were noting this another morning, but there is something about it I want you to see in this setting this morning. And keep in mind that this is all very practical. The righteousness of Jesus is practical. It isn’t just some theory. It reaches to the table. It reaches to the looking glass, the mirror. It reaches to what we put on and what we put off. This is all very literal as well as symbolic and spiritual:

“So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him” Psalm 45:11.

This is the wedding psalm, this forty-fifth psalm. A Song of Loves the introduction says. And you notice in the eleventh and thirteenth verses, this bride of the king is the daughter of the king. She is royal all the way through:

“The king’s daughter is all glorious” Psalm 45:13,

What is the next word?

“Within: her clothing is of wrought gold” Psalm 45:13.66.

This is the gold of faith and love that Revelation 3 talks about. But she is all glorious where? Within. That is the thing I want you to see. Character shines out in the face, the secret of her beauty, the beauty that is attractive to all heaven and thrills the universe, the beauty of the remnant church is an inward beauty, but it shines out in the face, in the countenance.

See how God regards this, 1 Peter the third chapter. Here, you remember, is the apostle's instruction to women about what to wear and what not to wear. You know, so many people have a meager idea of this New Testament instruction on jewelry and these other related practices. They suppose that if a person is a strict Christian he is really not very good looking. Just the opposite is the truth, my friends. God wants us to put away these heathen, pagan ideas of adornment in this world. He wants us to get rid of all that slavery - the time consuming, money spending, pride feeding program of this world. He has something far more beautiful and wonderful for every one of His children.

“Whose adorning” 1 Peter 3:3,

(Speaking of the wives)

“Let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair” 1 Peter 3:3.

You saw in what I gave you yesterday some picture of what that means. It is not talking about simple braiding, at all. It is talking about what was being done right there at that time, where women were spending hours and hours fixing up their hair in a hundred different ways:

“Whose adorning, let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be” 1 Peter 3:3, 4,

What?

“The hidden man of the heart” 1 Peter 3:4.

“The king's daughter is all glorious within” Psalm 45:13.

But notice this is the adorning. It is not the marks of slavery, not some low condition. Oh, no:

“Let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament” 1 Peter 3:4,

(The ornament, mind you)

“Of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price” 1 Peter 3:4.

I want to ask you something. Did you ever hear somebody say? “Well, I wonder why they are talking about women's dress, women's dress, women's dress all the time.” Did you ever hear anybody say anything like that? Oh, yes. Would you like to know? There is more than one reason, but here is a beautiful reason for it, dear friends. God wants His church to be

beautiful. And men are to do the best they can, but they don't have as much to work with as the women. That is right.

When God made Adam, he was handsome. But when He made Eve, she was simply beautiful, and beautifully simple. Oh, how thrilled Adam was when he saw Eve, and how thrilled every true bridegroom is from that day until now when he sees his beautiful bride. Am I right? And how the heart of the great Bridegroom longs to see His bride, His church, made ready. My point is, it is symbolized by a woman, because that is the most beautiful object God has made in this world.

So dear sisters in Christ, young and old, never let the devil tempt you to feel irritated because there is more instruction on the dress question to you than to men. Take it as an expression of the Father's love for you, and the Father's purpose in your creation. He made you in a special sense to be beautiful.

But, oh, what will make you beautiful? God's worst enemy will never make you beautiful in the sight of heaven. No, no:

“Loose thyself from the bands of thy neck O, captive daughter of Zion” Isaiah 52:2.

“Arise and sit down” Isaiah 52:2.

“Put on thy beautiful garments” Isaiah 52:1.

“The Kings daughter is glorious within” Psalm 45:13.

And her character shines out in that lovely face.

But I repeat, friends, this is very practical. Since (Watch this point!) the most beautiful adornment is what shines from within, in the eyes, the face, the countenance, God has given this people a program of health to bring us up out of the pit of sickness out into the sunlight of health and beauty. That is one of the great purposes of health reform, to fit a people for the marriage of the Lamb.

Oh, wouldn't it be too bad, friends, if the bride has to come halting in, just barely able to cripple along. That wouldn't look nice, would it? Oh, no, Jesus wants His church to be as those brothers of Gideon were described. Each one resembled the children of a king. And He has given His people a program of health to get us ready. Shall we accept it? Shall we follow it? Shall we develop that health and beauty which come from harmony with the laws of life and health?

You remember 1 Thessalonians 5:23. Put it down in your notes:

“And the very God of peace sanctify you” 1 Thessalonians 5:23,

What is the next word? “Wholly,” completely, entirely.

“And I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”
1 Thessalonians 5:23.

Oh, when He took His people out of Egypt, He gave them a program of health, didn't He - diet and all the rest? And there was not one feeble person among their tribes. What a beautiful object they must have been, two million people with no disease. Two million people reflecting the health and beauty of heaven.

Ah, friends, for God to take the remnant down here in the sickest, weakest age of the world and bring them to the place where, like Israel, they demonstrate the beauty and success of His plan, that is the major undertaking of the ages. Thank God He is going to succeed. Aren't you glad? Let's work with Him, what do you say - from the time we wake up in the morning until we go to bed at night, yes and through the night?

And that leads me to one of the things that I want to introduce as a part of God's beauty program this morning - it's sleep, sleep. One of the ways to put on your beautiful garments, dear friends, is to get to bed at night so that you can wake up in the morning refreshed. That is right:

“He giveth his beloved sleep” Psalm 127:2.

In *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 1, page 687, Sister White speaks of sleep, nature's sweet restorer. I like that. Don't you. Sleep, nature's sweet restorer. Now, the world, the slaves of Satan, many of them spend much of the night showing off their artificial beauty, and engaging in vain amusements. Did you know that is why they have to use makeup? I will read it to you:

“The majority of pleasure lovers attend the fashionable night gatherings, and spend in exciting amusements the hours God has given them for quiet rest and sleep in order to invigorate the body. ... They are robbing the cheeks of the glow of health, and then to supply the deficiency use cosmetics” *My Life Today*, page 143.

That is how cosmetics, you see, come to be used. Oh, God isn't simply taking away the rouge and the lipstick, He is giving us something far better, my friends, - sleep which will put the roses in the cheeks.

And speaking of roses in the cheeks, just yesterday I discovered, searching in the mine, a nugget of gold I must share with you. This is from the *Review and Herald*, October 17, 1871, nearly a hundred years ago. Listen to these beautiful words from the Lord's messenger, and watch for the beauty of the rose as I read this paragraph, and how to get it:

“God has surrounded us with his glories, that the natural eye may be charmed. The splendor of the heavens, the adornments

of nature in spring and summer, the lofty trees, the lovely flowers of every tint and hue, should call us out of our houses to contemplate the power and glory of God, as seen in the works of his hands. But many close their senses to these charms They will not engage in healthful labor among the beautiful things of nature. They turn from shrubs and flowers, and shut themselves in their houses, to labor and toil in closed walls, depriving themselves of the healthful, glorious sunlight, and the pure air, that they may prepare artificial adornments for their houses and their persons. They impose upon themselves a terrible tax. They sacrifice the glow of health God has given in the human face, the blended beauty of the lily and the rose, and tax the physical and mental in preparing the artificial to take the place of the natural. The beauty of the soul, when compared with outward display, is regarded almost valueless. In the anxiety to meet the standard of fashion, beauty of character is overlooked” *Review and Herald*, October 17, 1871.

Isn't that a beautiful presentation of the beautiful way? Oh, friends, part of God's beautiful way, then, is to get out of our houses and into nature. Isn't it nice to live where there is something when you get out of the house besides pavement and asphalt? Oh, yes. Thank God. And out there in the garden, among the trees, the flowers, we are to find health and beauty, beauty of soul, beauty of body, health, abounding life.

Outdoors exercise, we are told in *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 73, gives us ten times more health benefits than indoor exercise. So let us think this morning of sleep and outdoor exercise as outstanding in God's program to develop His bride, and to give her those beautiful garments of health and peace and joy that shine out in the countenance.

Again, I say this is all very practical. I would like to look at that fifty-second chapter of Isaiah again (That is the one that says put on the beautiful garments):

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace” Isaiah 52:7.

Beautiful feet? Yes, beautiful feet. Certainly they won't be these deformed, twisted things that up-to-date shoes are producing. Will they? God wants us, my dear friends, to have a thought about our foot-gear:

“How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, O prince's daughter!”
Song of Solomon 7:1.

That is in the love song:

“How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, O prince's daughter!”
Song of Solomon 7:1.

Do you think the bride of Jesus is going to have to ape the fashions of France and Hollywood

in order to get ready for the wedding, my friends? Do you think she is going to come hobbling in on these monstrosities that are deforming the feet of people today? Nothing of the kind. Oh, friends, how beautiful God's way is. But it takes exercise to develop beautiful feet. Outdoor exercise if we are going to go on the mountains as this is talking about. This is all very practical.

There is another part of this beauty. I mustn't say much about it, because it might offend somebody. But I will at least be permitted to give you a reference. And then you can read it in the Bible for yourself. It tells how a woman may have glory and beauty, friends. And I will not read it, but you can look it up, 1 Corinthians 11:14, 15.

Here is another part of God's program of health and restoration. Let us turn to 2 Corinthians 7:1. This is very practical. It isn't just symbolic. It is symbolic, but it is more than symbolic. It is very literal and you will see that as you read it. Which one of the remedies, that we call natural remedies, does this verse call for, would you say? Take a look at it as you find it. See which one you would want if you are going to carry out this text. What would it be? I heard somebody say it, but they whispered. Out loud. Water, that is right. Water for cleansing:

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us” 2
Corinthians 7:1,

Do what?

“Cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,
perfecting holiness in the fear of God” 2 Corinthians 7:1.

Now, if all there is to it is a spiritual matter, why put in the flesh? My dear friends, we need to get the filthy tobacco out of the mouth. We need to get the poisons out of the bloodstream that modern living produces. We need to get rid of everything that defiles, and then we need to cleanse ourselves inside and out. What do you say? Water. Oh, thank God for water in health and in disease, God's remedy. Drink it and use it. It is part of the program to get the bride ready.

And then the program of diet. As we have mentioned, when God brought His people out of Egypt He gave them a program of diet, Exodus 23:25. He said He would bless their bread and water and take sickness away. Has He given us a program of diet? No people in all the ages have ever had the light on diet such as this people have had, *Counsels on Diet and Foods, Ministry of Healing*. And it is all to lead us back to the Eden program and live the Eden life.

I was thinking of it this way, friends. Natural foods for natural beauty. How do you like that? Natural foods for natural beauty. And if we eat too many foods that have on the label artificially colored and flavored, then we create a group of people that are likely to have such labels on their faces - artificially colored and flavored. Natural foods for natural beauty. God wants the color to be in the blood and shine out, see, and if we will take whole grains it will produce a whole man.

Now, the last point that I am going to give you this morning in this program of getting the bride ready and this is most important of all. Nehemiah 8:10, put down in your notes:

“Neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength”
Nehemiah 8:10.

Oh, yes. God wants His people to be the happiest people in all the world. In fact, His people are the only truly happy people. We are to cherish joy and peace. Ah, but someone says, “There is so much to be burdened about.” What did I hear you singing this morning before we began? “Take it to the Lord in prayer.” Oh, what a privilege we have to go to the secret place of prayer and pour out our souls to God in prayer. And then as we meet others, instead of appearing to men to fast, mournful, sad, we are to carry the joy of the Lord.

Now, will you turn to my closing text to the sixty-first chapter of Isaiah. Isn't Isaiah a beautiful book? We are drawing heavily from Isaiah and Revelation in this study aren't we? This is the work of Jesus and He wants to accomplish it fully in this remnant church:

“To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them” Isaiah 61:3,

What?

“Beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness” Isaiah 61:3.

Oh, let's do it. What do you say, friends? Let's lay down the burden and take the beauty. Let's lay down the sorrow and carry away the solace. Let's give up the ashes and take these lovely garments.