

✠ Matthew 19:4-6 ✠

IN NOMINE IESU

God is doing what God does. He is creating something out of nothing. Before there was no union between the two of you, there was only Dustin and there was Brooke. But today God is taking the two and making one. God is joining you to each other. He is weaving you together so that where one is there the other is also. God is doing what God does. He is creating a new life. The old is gone and the new is come.

He is giving gifts. He is giving to you, Dustin, a gift, a wife, one who is bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh. One who will give you children and bring honor to your name and home. And He is giving to you, Brooke, a gift, a husband, one who loves and cares for you as he does his own body. One who will honor you, the apple of his eye, among all men, giving you himself.

God is doing what God does. He is creating, blessing, sustaining, and nurturing. And man will do what man does. Man will try and separate what God has joined together. Man will tell you, Dustin, that you need to be your own man and not run everything by your wife, that by including her you are somehow less than a man. But you are to say to them, I am not what I once was but what God has made me, a husband to one wife. Wherever I go, she goes; whatever I do, she does.

Man will say to you, Brooke, that you shouldn't have to submit to your husband; that to be a modern woman you need to assert yourself and control your own destiny, that you shouldn't settle for anything less than what you want and deserve. But you are to say to them, I want what God wants for me. I am not what I once was but what God has made me, a wife to this man. Wherever he goes, I go; whatever he does, I do. For a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

This mystery is profound. And I say to you that it refers to Christ and His Church. For on the cross God did what God does. He loved us. He loved us so that He scorned the shame of the cross, setting His face toward Jerusalem, to gain you, the joy set before Him that you may become one with Him. And even though you leave your heavenly Husband, your Bridegroom sent by the Father, though you betray Him, He loves you. And His love is greater than your sin and stronger than your shame. It will not be spent by your sinful living. Therefore repent and do not be afraid.

You are sons of Adam and daughters of Eve, you are sinners and you will sin. You will put yourself before your wife. And you will dishonor and reject your husband. Confess your sins to one another that you may be healed by the other's forgiveness. For their forgiveness is not their own but God's. God is doing what God does. He is creating something out of nothing. Before you were apart from God but now you are joined to Him. There were two and now there is one. Where He goes, you go. What He does, you do. For you are flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone. You are joined to Him in the holy estate of heavenly matrimony, joined by water and the Word. You are sealed to Him, united with Him in His body and blood, rejoicing in your marriage to Him in the marriage feast of the Lamb. The old is gone and the new has come.

God is doing what God does. He is showing mercy. He does not remember the times you've been intimate with another, participating in the altar of demons, or the times you have

forgotten to mention your heavenly marriage to satisfy the desires of your flesh. He remembers only that you are His Bride, His beloved. He remembers that God has joined you to Him and that man shall not separate what God has joined together.

In this way you are to love one another, as Christ has loved you. Scorn the shame of the other's betrayal for the joy that your heavenly Father sets before you as He gives you each other. Do not remember the times of rejection or betrayal or hurt feelings, but remember your vows: "Till death do us part." That doesn't only mean that death will end your marriage, it also means that you will love the other even if it kills you. And it will. For that is the way of love.

Love is self-sacrificing. The way of love is the way of the cross. This is love: that God sent forth His Son to rid us of our sin and shame by dying on the cross for you. You will die for one another because you will forgive one another. But Jesus did not stay dead. He rose from the dead. For that also is the way of love. The love of the Father resurrected the Son. And the love of God in you given to each other in your marriage will resurrect you so that you live for one another, no longer seeking your own way but sacrificing yourself for each other.

God is doing what God does. He is saving you, redeeming you, sanctifying you. Rejoice in the love of God by loving one another as He has loved you. What God has joined together, man shall not separate.

In the name of the FATHER and of the ✠ SON and of the HOLY SPIRIT.

✠ AMEN ✠