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Sermon preached by Mr F.L Gosden at Galeed. Chapel, Brighton, on
Lord's day evening, March 17th 1963.

"The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee. With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace." Psalm 45:13-15.

Some of the most blessed parts of the Word of God are exceedingly solemn. Some of you may have read this Psalm and felt exceedingly sad, blessed as it is. "My heart is inditing a good matter; I speak of the things I have made touching the king." And then you look at your own case and see how far short you come in your life of this blessed spiritual acquaintance with Christ, the King of glory. Now the Psalmist describes His beauty "Thou art fairer than the children of men; grace is poured into thy lips; therefore God hath blessed Thee for ever." Very sacred meditation, and perhaps you have noticed this, that as the Psalmist was thus led by the Spirit and the wings of faith raised him from the earth toward heaven, he not only described, the beauty and majesty of Christ and His kingdom, but he immediately wanted something wrought in him. You may understand that. You may pray with David "Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us." But what you want is the Gospel of His grace to come with power. So after the Psalmist has described the beauty and majesty of Christ, he prays, "Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O most Mighty!"

Well, coming down to the text, we are brought to see the relation-ships that the Lord Jesus has condescended to assume toward His people and this means union with Him. If He is related to us in any one relationship, then He is really ours. He is the Bridegroom of the bride. He is a Brother born for adversity. Here we have the King's daughter all glorious within. If she is the King's daughter, then every relationship is hers. It is a very blessed consideration and mystery, that the Eternal God becoming incarnate made these actual relationships with His people in reality. These relationships are not typical; they are actual; and the most blessed is that of the Bridegroom and the bride. Paul speaks of this to the Ephesians; Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it. This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Whatever is spoken concerning Christ and the church is equally true and belongs to every one of His dear people individually without an exception. Everything that is spoken throughout the Word of God to the church belongs to every individual member.

"The King's daughter is all glorious within." The glory of the tabernacle was not external. Its glory was in its contents within. And so with respect to the church of God and each of His dear people. They are glorious within. And this inward glory is by the regenerating grace of the Holy Spirit. That is the beginning in experience of an eternal glory, the sanctification of His peoples and unless we are born again there is nothing glorious in us, for we are just left in that state in which we were born, and being so left, where God is we shall never be. Oh how important it is then to seek some divine testimony that we are created anew in Christ Jesus, that inward secret birth, that incorruptible seed deposited by the Holy Ghost, bringing that seed as it were, as the wind bloweth where it listeth "Thou hearest the sound thereof, but cannot tell whither it cometh or whither it goeth. So is everyone that is born of the Spirit."

'The King's daughter is all glorious within.' Then from that beginning there are all the complete graces of the Spirit, and they are glorious because they are divine and none of them can perish. It is a great thing if we really have within our souls that which is from God Himself and therefore is imperishable; the graces of the Spirit that can never fade, a kingdom established within that can never decay, never be moved, to have an internal secret life that can never be suppressed, that nothing can kill a life that is hid with Christ in God, To be possessed of Christ Himself. Christ dwelling in the heart by faith; for the heart to be made the temple of the Holy Ghost. 'The king's daughter is all glorious within.'

Some of you may covet it, long for it and you may lie upon your bed of a night mourning and groaning over a sense of your depraved nature, a view of, your deformity and blackness and yet at the same time long for holiness. You may consider the Gospel and all the beauty of Christ reflected therein and truly pray "Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us." Oh what a sacred condition! One who is all glorious within by the Holy Spirit's work, being possessed of spiritual life illuminated by spiritual light, the true light having shined revealing the glory of God in the Person of Jesus Christ the in-shining of the Gospel. For every doctrine of the Gospel is filled with heavenly light and permeated with divine life. When that enters the soul, that soul is all glorious within. Oh blessed condition - sanctification. The Lord Jesus is the blessed source, the Alpha and Omega; He of God is made all of it to His people, heavenly wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. This is to have that kingdom the Lord speaks of, "the kingdom of God is within you." Oh then it behoves us to look inside: The Lord looks at the heart, and we should look at the heart, not at the head.

'The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold.' This clothing is the righteousness or the Lord Jesus in two aspects, as I view it. In the first place it is the imputed righteousness of the Lord Jesus which is indeed this 'raiment of needlework,' for in this clothing she shall be brought unto the King. It is the wedding garment; Oh blessed righteousness wrought out! Her clothing is of wrought gold. Righteousness is a wrought-out righteousness. And this is imputed to His people. It is their clothing. Different from the righteousness in which Adam was clothed. That was a beautiful righteousness. It was a righteousness to full perfection because it was the work of God. But it was a righteousness that was based upon the obedience of man. It was a losable righteousness and he lost it. But this righteousness wrought out by the Lord Jesus is an unconditional righteousness. It was wrought out by the Lord Jesus from the manger to the grave. Every detail of His life, His work, His sufferings, wrought out this righteousness. It is not the righteousness of the Lord Jesus that belonged to Him essentially as the eternal Son of God. And yet the righteousness that He wrought out derives its eternity and its virtue from the righteousness that is His. It is a point to my mind that is very blessed, and you will feel it. Perish the thought that a creature could ever have communicated to him the essential righteousness of the Lord. Jesus. No more than omnipotence can be communicated to a creature or immutability. Yet at the same time omnipotence is in Christ, immutability is in the love that is shed abroad in their hearts. The benefits of all that Christ has are in His righteousness.

'The King's daughter is all glorious within her clothing is of wrought gold.' This blessed righteousness gives evidence of the relationship. It is only imputed to Christ's bride. It is that clothing that raiment of needlework, in which she shall be brought unto the King. But then there is another thing with respect to this righteousness - her clothing in a way of profession. "Hold fast the profession of your

faith without wavering." The robe of a profession of faith. "Let thy garments be always white, and thy head lack no ointment." Oh my friends, if we have this righteousness imputed, we shall bring forth the fruits of righteousness in our life and conversation!

But 'she shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework.' Now to my mind this Scripture - and I would not wrest the Scriptures or handle the Word of God deceitfully - but I feel that the intention of the Spirit in this Scripture sets forth how His people, by the Spirit, are gathered into the King's palace here below, and by the same Spirit and same work are made fit and sanctified for the inheritance of the saints, and that is very precious. I believe for a few seconds, here and there, I have felt it. It is verily true that if there is a work of grace in your heart by the Holy Ghost, in gathering you out from the lands, the north, south, east, and west, and gathering you, bringing you under the rod into the bond of the covenant, it is the same preparation to fit a person for the church of God here, as fits that person for heaven. Sometimes you will feel it in the merciful help the Lord affords. You take for instance the 20th Psalm "The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee, send thee help from the sanctuary." That is, send thee help from heaven, and strengthen thee out of Zion. I believe I have known that in my little experience. When favoured to sit under the sound of the Gospel, to receive help from heaven and to be strengthened out of Zion. There is such a close connection between the true church of God and the Spirit's work here and the provision in the church which God has promised to bless, and heaven itself. And that is the very reason why it is called by Jacob, when blessed with a manifestation of Christ, "this is the house of God and, the gate of heaven." You will never get nearer to heaven in this life than the gate of it. Very blessed it is to get to that gate, and sometimes the eye of faith looks through the gate.

'She shall be brought unto the King in raiment of needlework.' It is the Holy Spirit that brings her, and it is through the ministry to a large extent, God's own appointed means, that Christ's bride is brought to Him. We have the account of Abraham's servant who was sent to find a bride for Isaac. There was only one condition, that he had to go to Abraham's own kindred, and there is but the election of grace to whom the word will be made effectual, who shall be gathered, drawn and brought unto the King. Perhaps you remember this part of your experience? Beautifully and in sweet simplicity David speaks of it: "Gather my saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant; with Me by sacrifice." You take an example or two of how the King's daughter has been brought unto the King in raiment of needlework, for instance Ruth. The sovereignty of God is in it. The foundation of God is in it and stands sure, the Lord knoweth them that are His and knoweth where they are. Therefore in His providence He sent Naomi and her sons down to Moab. They had no idea what was before them, but the lot was cast into the lap, and the whole disposing thereof was of the Lord. Oh how sovereign grace operated in Ruth's heart! Two sisters; one taken, the other left. "Entreat me not to leave thee, nor to return from following after thee; where thou lodgest I will lodge; thy people shall be my people and thy God my God." There was a gathering; she was brought unto the king. Divine life entered her heart and light into her understanding. So when Abraham's servant reached the object of the love of God they said unto Rebekah "Wilt, thou go with this man?" And she said "I will go." Oh sovereign grace, how invincible it is.

'She shall be brought unto the King in raiment of needlework.' Now in thinking of our dear friend. Miss Suffell, I do feel that this represents her blessed case. Her glory was within, and. oh how she was among those to whom the Lord Himself spoke, "Ye are they which have continued with Me in

My temptations;" that is in the path of tribulation and afflictions! Her faith stood the test. She endured unto the end, and that blessed righteousness shone in her in her afflictions and how the Lord made Himself unto her all that she needed through all those heavy days and years of sore affliction! But she was all glorious within and she is now brought unto the King Himself in raiment of needlework. But how blessed it is to be brought to Him here below. When the Lord uses His Word and it may be the ministry. You see how He found the eunuch, using the ministry of Philip. You will notice His divine sovereignty upon every occasion, whether it was Ruth or the eunuch or the woman at Samaria's well. Said the Lord to Philip: "Join thyself to that chariot." He knew; His eye saw every precious thing and He saw that precious thing that was in the eunuch, because He had put it there. And for substance He still does the same thing by His Spirit, and that is His work which we want to see appear. The Lord looks down upon His people and there is a set time to favour each one of them, a period known to God. Some word may be used of Him that will be fixed in the heart as a nail in a sure place, whereas others may have taken no notice of it. Oh there are some blessed simple Scriptures that are so profound. "Where two or three are gathered together name, there am I in the midst of them." None will ever be gathered by the Holy Ghost here, and that glorious work wrought in their hearts except they were gathered together in the covenant of grace before the world began. And every one of those will be gathered together in heaven. If you are brought into the king's palace here my friends, you must be brought into the palace of eternal glory in heaven. Why that was just the theme of Solomon's Songs "Draw me; we will run after thee; the king hath brought me into His chamber: - we will be glad and, rejoice in Thee we will remember Thy love more than wine."

'The virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto Thee.' I thought this was very precious with respect to our departed friend, and her faithful sister in the Lord that looked after her; yes, the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto Thee. Ruth was brought, that followed Naomi "Entreat me not to leave thee, nor from following after thee." The sweet humility of Ruth as much as to say "I am not worthy to come with you, but forbid me not to follow after thee. And says Paul exhorting the Hebrews "Be not slothful, but followers of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises." The Holy Ghost works here in your heart in Zion, blessing the provision that He has made in His gracious presence - for "God is in the midst of her" and "the Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty" and "He makes the place of His feet glorious." - if you are gathered up in the Spirit under the preaching of the Gospel, and feel that inexpressible sacred influence upon your heart of the things of God, I say that it will not be different in heaven; except in heaven there will be no infirmities, or sin, or pains, but a body fashioned like unto His glorious body, capable of worship. To worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness brings heaven into the soul. Those of you who have felt it have a good ground to hope that one day you will be called to the marriage supper of the Lamb. The two things are so blessedly connected as you read in the Revelation: "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him for the marriage of the Lamb it come and His wife hath made herself ready And he saith unto me Write, Blessed are they that are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me these are the true sayings of God." (ch.19:7&9) So that there is the marriage supper here below, where the Lord Jesus is betrothed unto His people as it is sweetly described in Hosea "I will betroth, thee unto Me in righteousness, and In judgement and in lovingkindness and in mercies; I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness." Have we any evidences that we are engaged unto the Lord Jesus and that work of preparation and sanctification in our hearts is making us fit to be in heaven as well as His justifying righteousness and sin-atonement blood give a right to His redeemed people in heaven.

'The virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto Thee.' We read of these who became companions of them who were so used. We might be ashamed of some poor child of God, but if there is grace in the heart you will be willing and feel it a privilege to be a companion of those that were so used, who have taken joyfully the spoiling of their goods knowing in themselves that they have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. Have you tasted a little that the Lord is gracious and had an earnest of the saints in light? I feel persuaded that the faculties of the new man of grace are as operative as our natural faculties. The eye of faith sees the King in His beauty; the ear of faith hears His divine voice and says 'How sweet the name of Jesus sounds!' He can be felt; His love can be felt in the heart.

'With gladness and rejoicing shall she be brought.' It is so here: Joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, and joy in the heart of that sinner. When the Lord gathers you unto Himself and embraces you in the gospel you will rejoice and delight in Him, more than the world when their wine and their oil increase. Oh that the Lord would bring His people out of prison, that they might praise His name! Only He can do it. True, they will come with supplication and at the same time they shall come and sing in the height of Zion. I don't know of a low place in Zion. You might say 'Well that is rather contradictory to humility.' I don't know of a low experience which is the work of the Spirit 'well,' you might say 'that seems to contradict one putting his mouth in the dust, if so be there may be hope.' If you are there in the exercise of your soul and out of the dust you are groaning by the Holy Ghost it is higher than the highest preferment of this world. The lowest experience of a child of God is higher than and different in its nature from anything else.

'With gladness and rejoicing she shall be brought.' Well there would be rejoicing to see the Holy Spirit gather those that are His, and enable them to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and to honour Him. It is only the love of God that constrains, and the only right constraint, but it was a good point to which the eunuch was brought. He said: "What doth hinder me?" And those of you who are truly exercised and long for the Lord Jesus, may that question be asked in your heart and never cease to be heard until satisfactorily answered: What doth hinder me?

'With gladness and rejoicing shall she be brought; they shall enter into the king's palaces.' But ultimately this is heaven. I remember once some years ago visiting a poor old illiterate woman in hospital who had the grace of God in her heart, and these words came to me as I turned round and gave her the last look before she died. Poor old woman she was despised in this world, and I said within myself 'She shall she brought unto the King in raiment of needlework; with gladness and rejoicing shall she be brought and enter into the King's palace.' Do you believe it? Do you believe that God's dear incarnate Son, the Bridegroom of the bride makes such relationships and has such communion with poor sinners? He does. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." He sees in them the travail of His soul. They enter in unto that congregation that will never break up. Oh sometimes you might sit and feel the sweetness of the truth and sing in your hearts

*If such the sweetness of the streams,
What must the fountain be?
Where saints and angels draw their bliss
Immediately from thee. (A Toplady)*

You look at the 'shall' here – 'She *shall* be brought unto the king and the virgins *shall* be brought unto thee. With gladness she *shall* be brought; they *shall* enter into the king's palace.' O May the Lord grant us some foretastes, some blessed earnest of the inheritance, and help us to endure as seeing Him who is invisible and make us willing to leave all and follow Him and have respect unto the recompense of the reward.

Amen.