

# The Prostitute Bride

Ken Stoltzfus, Winter 1978-79,  
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An allegory, long, but best read in one sitting

## I - A Beautiful Young Lady

A beautiful young lady  
who seemed to be perfect in every way  
was captured by a vicious and wicked man  
who took her away into captivity.

A strong young man knew of her beauty and  
worth  
and determined to rescue her

After much careful planning  
and at considerable risk  
he rescued the young lady  
and brought her to freedom

Her heart was filled with gratitude and love  
and she accepted his proposal for marriage

He said, "I want to prepare a perfect place for  
us to spend the rest of our lives together

"I will go away for a while  
and get our place ready  
then I will come back again  
and we will be united for life

"Until I come  
you may stay with my family  
where you will have everything you need

"You will have food  
and clothing  
and shelter

"You will be protected from the cold and  
storm  
and from evil men who would be attracted  
to your beauty  
and misuse you

"I ask only that you keep yourself pure for me  
and set your heart on the things that would  
make us both happy"

The young lady promised to keep herself for  
him  
until he came back

She eagerly awaited his return  
But  
as the days turned into weeks  
and the weeks into months  
she began to lose her first-love

She would leave the safety of his family's home  
and wander the streets of the city  
making friends with the people there

She became aware of the desires of her body  
and began to give herself to men  
who were interested only in a fleeting moments  
pleasure

At first she was conscience-stricken  
and felt remorse for what she was doing  
but she looked around her  
and saw that "everyone else" was doing it too

And so  
as time went on  
and the groom tarried his coming  
she became more and more at ease in her  
waywardness

She even began to take money from men  
who were eager to indulge themselves in her  
beauty

She told herself, "I need this  
to buy the necessities of life"

But she could never quite forget the young man's  
words  
"If you stay with my family  
you will have everything you need"

One day the young man returned  
with anticipation in his heart

He had completed the mansion for her

It was perfect in every way  
and would fill her life with joy forever

He came to her with outstretched arms  
expecting that she had kept herself for this  
day

But the moment he saw her  
he knew that something was wrong

She didn't have the glimmer in her eyes  
that would show her joy in his coming

She tried to greet him warmly  
but he knew that he had interrupted her life  
and interfered with things that were more  
important to her

He said, "I have come to take you home  
to the mansion I have prepared for you  
where we would live together forever

"But"  
he said  
"I see that you have not kept yourself for me  
and you don't really delight in my coming

"My perfect and pure bride  
has made herself a prostitute  
to the wicked men of the city

"Therefore  
you must leave the home of my family  
and spend the rest of your life in the streets  
of the city  
where your kind of wickedness abounds  
where there is cold  
and storm  
and hunger  
where men will use you for their pleasure  
with no respect for your real beauty and  
worth

"And I will find another bride  
who delights in my love  
enough to keep herself pure for me"

## **II In the Beginning**

In the beginning  
God created the heavens and the earth

As a very special part of His creation  
He made man and woman  
even in His own image

One day Satan came  
and through deceit  
led man and woman into captivity

God was watching from heaven  
and immediately announced that He would rescue  
them  
even if it meant death for His own Son

After several thousand years of careful planning  
and at the expense of the life of His only Son  
God rescued man and woman  
and led them to freedom

Their hearts were filled with gratitude and love  
and they accepted His request that they become  
members of His family

The Son said, "I am going away for a while  
to prepare a mansion for you  
and I will come again  
and will take you to Myself  
that where I am  
there you might be also

"Until I come  
I will send another Counselor to be with you  
and He will lead you into everything good

"I will see that you have everything you need  
while you are awaiting My return

"You will have food  
and clothing  
and shelter  
and will lack no good thing

"If there is anything you need  
ask  
in My Name  
and I will see that you have it  
that your joy might be full

"I ask only that you seek the things I seek  
and keep yourself pure for Me"

The man and woman's hearts were overwhelmed  
and they promised to keep themselves for Him  
until He returned

But  
as the days turned into weeks  
and the weeks into months  
they began to lose their first-love

They began to leave the safety of that place  
where their minds were fastened on the One who  
had rescued them

No longer anticipating His imminent return  
they began to wander the streets of the world  
and to make friends with the people there

They became aware of the desires within  
themselves  
the desire for riches  
fame  
prestige  
security  
and power

More and more they gave themselves to  
these desires  
knowing full well that they gave satisfaction  
only for a little while

At first they were conscience-stricken  
and felt remorse for what they were doing  
because they knew it was displeasing to the  
One who had rescued them  
and Who was coming back for them soon

But  
as they looked around them  
they saw that "everyone else" was doing  
these things too

And so  
as time went on  
and the One who had bought their freedom  
tarried His coming  
they began to feel more and more at ease  
in these things

They even sought money above everything  
else  
saying to themselves "We need it to buy the  
necessities of life"

But they could not quite forget the words of  
the One who had rescued them

He had said to them  
"Seek first the things of My Kingdom  
and My righteousness  
and all of the necessities of life will be given  
to you"

One day their Savior returned  
with anticipation in His heart

He had completed the mansion for them

It would be perfect in every way  
and would fill their lives with joy forever

He came to them with outstretched arms  
but the moment He saw them  
He knew something was very wrong

They didn't have the glimmer in their eyes  
that would show their joy in His coming

They tried to greet Him warmly  
but He knew He had interrupted their lives  
and interfered with things that were more  
important to them

He said  
"I have come to take you home to the mansion I  
have prepared for you  
where we would live together forever  
"But"  
He said  
"I see you have not kept yourselves for Me

"You have not trusted in My provision for you  
and you don't delight in My coming

"You  
for whom I died  
to set you free from the one who deceived you  
and led you into captivity  
have again been deceived  
and been led astray from your first-love for Me

"My perfect and pure possession  
for whom I died  
have sold themselves into the wickedness around  
them  
for a fleeting moments pleasure

Even though you pretend to greet me warmly  
you may not enter into My kingdom  
which is reserved for those who have done what I  
asked

"Therefore  
depart from Me  
ye cursed  
into everlasting fire  
which was prepared for the devil and his angels  
those who held you captive before I set you free

"I will find the truly righteous  
those who have done My will  
and don't just call Me 'Lord'  
and together  
we will enter into My mansion forever"

### III If it is Really True

If it is really true  
that man is a special part of God's creation  
that part alone which is privileged to have  
fellowship with Him

And  
if it is really true that  
when man decided to reject this love  
and scorn this fellowship  
God did not reject him  
but loved him enough to work through  
several thousand years of history  
to work out a plan for his redemption  
by sending His only Son to literally bear the  
punishment for all man's sins

And  
if it is true that Jesus left this earth  
for the express purpose of preparing a  
place for us to spend forever with Him

If it is true  
that heaven is a reality  
and Jesus is there today  
preparing an eternal home for us

And  
if it is really so that  
before He left  
He promised to send a Counselor from  
heaven to live inside us  
and that Counselor came at Pentecost

And  
if He has truly called us to be separate from  
the world  
and to be conformed to Himself  
being changed into His likeness  
more and more

If He asked us to deny the old fleshly desires  
within us  
and willingly bear our cross daily  
cheerfully suffering abuse for Him  
and the loss of things that bring pleasure for  
only a fleeting moment

If He really meant what He said when He told  
us  
"As the Father sent Me  
so send I you"

And  
"Not everyone who says to Me  
'Lord, Lord'  
shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven  
but only he who does the will of My Father  
Who is in Heaven"

If His commandments stand  
that we are to love one another  
and that we are not forgiven if we don't  
forgive

If Jesus wasn't only kidding when He said  
"No one can serve two masters  
for either he will hate the one and love the other  
or he will be devoted to the one and despise the  
other  
you cannot serve God and mammon"

And  
if the Bible is speaking to present day Christians  
when it says  
"As obedient children  
do not be conformed to the passions of your  
former ignorance  
but as He who called you is holy  
be holy yourself in all your conduct"

And if it is true that Jesus is literally coming back  
again  
soon  
for His church  
which is His bride  
and taking only those who have set their hearts  
and minds on Him  
and who have kept themselves pure and  
unspotted  
and have looked for His return

And  
if hell is a reality  
and not just fiction  
or some scare story  
and if those whose lives do not show that they  
love Him with all their hearts  
will be thrown into the lake of fire  
forever

Then - - - - - ?

#### **IV - Then Why**

Then why don't we more earnestly seek fellowship  
with God?

And why do we reject the love that compelled Jesus  
to die for us?

Why don't we think of heaven as a reality  
and live now like we're getting ready to go there  
instead of living like this world is all there is?

Why do we get so carried away by the cares of this  
life  
and exhaust ourselves physically  
and drain ourselves spiritually  
and literally destroy families  
in the pursuit of this world's empty pleasures?

Why do we try to keep up with the ungodly  
around us  
for whom the things of life are the best they  
will ever have?

Why are we so quick to accept the values  
and goals of this world  
which is ruled by Satan  
the one who has eternally set himself  
against God?

Why do we continue to make excuses for  
ourselves  
and try to justify sin in our lives?

Why do we prostitute ourselves  
by using the gifts God gave us for His glory  
to fulfill our own sinful lusts and passions  
in the vain pursuit of self-fulfillment  
instead of using them in His service  
to His glory  
and our lasting joy?

Why are we so often unconcerned about  
denying the attitudes and habits of the old  
sinful nature?

Why are we so ashamed of Christ  
the One who left heaven  
and came to this earth  
to literally bear the punishment for our sin?

Why do we refrain from telling others about  
Him  
proclaiming His wonderful name  
everywhere we go?

Why do we think we can do what we please  
here on the earth  
and get into heaven because we have gone  
to church  
or avoided certain evils  
or done certain good deeds  
or called ourselves "Christian"?

Why do we tolerate the jealousy  
and bitterness  
and resentment  
that so fill our hearts at times?

Why do we allow the gossip  
and complaining  
and backbiting  
that so divide us as God's family?

Why do we refuse to forgive each other?

Why is the thought of Christ's return distant to us  
so distant that many of us don't even think about it  
from one month to another?

Why have so many Christians dismissed hell as a  
reality  
both for those who call Him "Lord"  
but don't obey Him  
and for those who have altogether refused and  
denied His rule in their lives?

## **V - It is Simply Because**

It is simply because we have again been deceived  
by the one who deceived Adam and Eve in the  
garden  
the one whom Jesus crushed by His death and  
resurrection  
for all who believe!

He who has ears to hear  
let him hear

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