

HIS BRIDE AND JOY

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Texas Eagle Forum Devotionals (#TEFDevo)

Recently, our 20 year old (too young but called of God) son, Israel, got married. Our family went to Romania to celebrate as he and his beautiful bride cut covenant and said “Yes” to each other forever.

This beautiful picture of him kissing his gorgeous, radiant, and joyful bride has had me thinking about the relationship between Jesus and His bride, and how much the Father gave up as well, in this adventure called redemption.

December 2015, I dragged my son (yes, kicking and screaming) on a mission trip to Romania. He didn’t want to go but I saw him floundering after his high school graduation and knew he needed to see the world and experience the presence of God outside of his comfort zone.

Little did I know that God would meet him in such a radical way that this little “shy all his life” boy would get on a plane by himself three weeks after he got home from that trip to go back to Romania where he has been off and on for the last year and a half.

It has been hard on us – mom and dad – to see him go even though we raised him on the Great Commission and we knew God was moving so mightily in his life. We couldn’t argue that he wasn’t supposed to be there, so we continued to pray for peace.

Somewhere along his journey in this foreign land, Israel fell in love with his best friend, fellow worshiper, and the love of his life- Teo. She is beautiful inside and out.

I can only imagine what it was like for Father God to see Jesus leave heaven – the safe place that was full of so much glory- to go to a hostile environment called planet Earth. He had to let Him be born of a virgin, be a kid, and then grow up and mature. Eventually Jesus was at the point where He was ready to fulfill His eternal destiny and to lay down His life and the Father had to watch. It was for this full reason He had come to earth, this was His moment, to redeem His bride.



The swell of pride and heartbreak at the same time that the Father must have felt as His “His beloved Son” traded everything He had for a promise- a promise of a bride. Father God knew Jesus had to go to the cross. He knew this was His ultimate destiny, but I am sure heaven cried as the ultimate sacrifice was made.

All Jesus could see in His heart and mind was His brides’ beauty. He was overcome by love for her. Hebrews even says “For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross.”

What was the joy?

The joy was the marriage supper of the Lamb- the

culmination of His love story where He could finally be with His bride.

As I sat and watched my son’s eyes brimming over with tears as His bride walked down the aisle toward him, I was struck with my own loss (losing my baby boy that I kissed on the cheek over and over again) but at the same time, I was so happy that he had found the perfect bride that I had always prayed for – that matched him completely.

Together in wild unity, joy and sorrow exploded in my heart as my son and new daughter in law became one, but then the rejoicing happened. The dancing. The singing. The pure joy at the marriage supper. It was pure bliss. It had all been worth it! This is the eternal reality of this love story- you were worth it! The bride from every tongue and tribe and nation was worth it to Jesus.

The bridegroom is singing over you even now, dancing and smiling, and so thankful that you said “yes” to Him.

Just as in this picture above, Jesus is kissing His bride on the cheek as she radiates His love to everyone around. The love is infectious!

“For as a young man marries a virgin, So shall your sons marry you;

And as the **bridegroom** rejoices over the **bride**, So shall your God rejoice over you.”

Isaiah 62:5



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