

# **The Best Match**

by

**George  
Whitefield**

*The Best Match.*

A

**SERMON**

**PREACHED AT**

*CAMBUSLANG*

ON *SABBATH-EVENING*, AFTER THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT  
OF THE *LORD'S SUPPER*. JULY 11TH, 1742.

BY THE Reverend

MR. *GEORGE WHITEFIELD*.

LATE OF *PEMBROKE-COLLEGE, OXFORD*.

*TAKEN FROM HIS OWN MOUTH, AND PUBLISHED AT THE EARNEST DESIRE  
OF MANY OF HIS HEARERS.*

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and is working on a complete printed edition.

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## *The Best Match.*

### A SERMON.

ISAI. liv. 5.

*For thy Maker is thine Husband [the LORD of Hosts is his Name] and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel, the GOD of the whole Earth shall he be called.*

**Y**OU have this Day been invited to a Wedding-Supper: Our blessed Saviour has set you at his Table, and been richly entertaining them that have been his Guests. I would hope God has heard the Prayers of his People, and that many poor Souls have been this Day married to Jesus Christ. I would hope that many, many Souls have seen him to be altogether Love, have been ravished with his Beauty, and taken Him to be their God, and their All. I think then, I cannot shut up, or close this Day's Solemnity, better than in coming in the Name of Jesus Christ to with you Joy, and to tell you how you are to behave to the Redeemer whom you have espoused.

The endearing Titles which the Redeemer takes throughout the Book of God are exceeding many, to show you how he loves you, to show you his infi-

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finite Condescension. He is sometimes pleas'd to call us his Brethren, in other Places, he is pleased to call us his Friends; *Henceforth I call you no more Servants, but Friends:* But of all the kind Appellations, of all the

endearing Titles by which the Son of Man reveals himself to us, I think that in the Text is the most engaging, and implies the greatest and the most intimate Union, that of a Husband. Thy Maker (says the Prophet to the Children of *Israel*) *is thy Husband*, and that they might know the Greatness of his Character, he goes on to tell them. That *the LORD of Hosts is his Name*, and that he might be endeared to them for his Holiness, as well as his Greatness, says the Prophet, *and thy Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, the GOD of the whole Earth shall he be called*. Happy, happy these Souls that can say, My Maker, my Redeemer, the Lord of Hosts, the Holy One of *Israel*, is my Husband!

But that you may not mistake, that you may really know whether your Maker, whether your Redeemer, is your Husband, or not, I shall, from these Words, 1. Show what they import, and what must pass between you and Jesus Christ, ere you can say that he is your Husband.

2. I shall then, as God shall enable me, in a special Manner, address myself to you that can say this, Ye have been married, or at least renewed your Marriage with Jesus Christ, To-day. I will show you what you owe to your Husband, and how you ought to behave to him. I will in the next Place endeavour to speak to those that are so unhappy, as cannot say so yet: I shall show you your Misery, and then, if you were never espoused to Jesus Christ before, I will come in the Name of God to invite you to marry him now; for I am verily persuaded I am come this Night to fetch some Wives for my Master.

1. That you way not mistake, and lay Claim to Christ Jesus, and, by a false Title, that you may not

say

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say, He is your Husband, when really he is not. I shall endeavour to show you what must pass between you and Christ, before you can lay Claim to this most endearing and engaging Appellation. And 1. 'Tis required of all Persons before they marry that all former Engagements, all former Contracts, must be entirely broken. If you go to take a Licence, or if you go to offer Marriage to any Person, 'tis required, before you can marry, that you swear, or speak in the Name of God, and vow before Witnesses, that you are not pre-engaged to any other Person whatever, or at least, if you have been pre-engaged, that that former Contract be broken, and that you have got a full Discharge from the Person concerned. Now ye and I have got a Wife, and that is the Law, nay we have two Wives, we are married to the Law and our own rotten Righteousness,

Self comes in, and we are as closely wedded to our Duties as possibly can be, we are born under the Law. But before you or I can be married to Jesus Christ we must be divorced from our old Wife, the Law; the Husband has Power over the Wife so long as he lives, but when the Husband is dead she is at Liberty to marry whom she pleases So says the Apostle, *When you were under the Law, you were married to the Law; But I have espoused you as a chaste Virgin to Jesus Christ.* Before ever therefore ye can be united o Christ, before ever you can say, *Your Maker is your Husband,* you must be divorced from the Law, you must be made to see that the Law will damn you, and not save you, you must be made to see that your own rotten, ragged, filthy Righteousness is good for nothing in the Sight of God, your pitiful Fig leaves must be quite cut off, and you must come as a chaste Virgin to Christ. Your old Husband the Law must be buried before you can take a new Husband, even Jesus Christ your Redeemer: And is it so now? Is it so with every one of you? Can you say that you are di

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vorced from the Law? Can you say that you have felt your own Works and Duties to be good for nothing? If so, you are in a fair Way for a good Match, ye are in a fair Way to be married to Jesus Christ: But if you never were divorced, the Devil, and not Christ, is your Husband.

But there is something more required, when two Parties are to be married, there must be a mutual Consent, and there must be a mutual Contract, past between them. We do not use to marry People without their Consent, we do not use to marry People whether they will or not. There must some solemn and some mutual Contract past between the two Parties. Now, if you are married to Jesus Christ, you and Jesus Christ have shoke Hands on it, if you are married to Jesus Christ, if the Redeemer is your Husband.

You have sit down and considered the Matter, and upon mature Consideration ye have given your Hand, you have solemnly vowed it, you will be his Wife, and he hath laid that he will be your Husband. If ye are married to Christ you have entered into Covenant and Agreement with Christ, and the Writings between you have been sealed by the Holy Ghost. Without some such solemn Contract has past between God and the Heart, thou art in Compact with the Devil, O Man, O Woman, thou art yet in Compact with the Devil. Tell me of thy being married to Christ, and never entered into a Bargain with him; tell me that thy

Maker, thy Redeemer is thy Husband, and yet never shoke Hands with Christ upon the Bargain. Why, if thou art willing, how dost thou know, if thy Husband is willing If thou haft not shoke Hands upon, it how canst thou say thou art willing? You would think it very odd, if I was to tell you of a Stranger, that he is your Husband: You would tell me that you never agreed to marry such a Person; you know no such Person there was never such a

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solemn Contract between you, and your Marriage is good for nothing. 'Tis just so between you and Christ; you say you are married to Christ, and yet poor Soul you never shoke Hands with Jesus Christ upon the Bargain, never any Contract past between you and him.

Again, when Persons are married, you know two Persons then become one, *They are no more twain, but one Flesh*. Man and Wife are united in such a Manner as it is not lawful for any other Person under Heaven to be joined together, and therefore Ifind the Woman gives up her Name to the Husbandthat they may become one Flesh, one Name and one Heart; and therefore 'tis remarkable when God created *Adam* and *Eve*, he called their Name *Adam*, *Eve* was called *Eve* after the Fall as a Token of her Subjection. I take it, that having forfeited her Character she run to Adam to have a Name given her, as her Lord, as well as other Creatures, as a Token he was her Lord. But originally her Name was Adam; for we are told in the 2d Verse of the 5th Chapter of Genesis, *Male and Female created he them, and blessed them, And called their Name Adam in the Day wherein they were created. For this Cause shall a Man leave Father and Mother, and cleave unto his Wife. and they shall be no more twain, but one Flesh*. Now then, if you and Christ are married, the Spirit of God has tied the Marriage Knot, and you are one with Christ. You are united to Christ by Faith; 'tis no longer you that live, but the Lord Jesus Christ liveth in you: *Father* (says Christ) *I will that there whom thou hast given me be where I am, that they may be one with me, even as thou, O Father, and I are one I in them, and they in me, that we may be all made perfect in one*. Till you come to feel a living, vital, mystical Union between Christ and your Soul, you are Strangers to this spiritual Espousal. I have often told you, and I tell you again Religion is an inward thing

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And if ye are Christians, if Christ be your Husband, the Kingdom of God is erected in your Heart, and ye are made Partakers of a divine Nature; *Know you not* (says the Apostle) *that Christ is in you, unless you be Reprohates*: And therefore except ye know an universal Change and Renovation has past upon thy Heart, the Devil, and not Jesus, is thy Husband. Now I pray you, for the Lord Jesus Christ's Sake, as you are sitting here in the Presence of the Great God, examine yourselves, whether, you are thus united to Christ, or not: My dear Friends, don't think it sufficient to come here, as ye have often done perhaps, to see and to be seen, and go home no better than you came: But examine now your Hearts, and see if you be divorced from the Law, and from your own Righteousness, see whether Christ and you have shoke Hands, see whether you have felt Jesus Christ united to your Hearts.

I believe there is more than Twenty thousand People here To-day, but how few of you can say Christ is your Husband: Perhaps of these 20000 People there has been about 15 or 16 Hundred Communicants, so there is about 18 Thousand of you that have turned your Back upon Jesus Christ this Day, pretty Wives indeed! It cannot be supposed he is your Husband; If he is you use him very ill, and you are very wicked Wives. Examine yourselves therefore for the Lord Jesus Christ's Sake: It is not hearing Sermons will bring you to Heaven, your Ministers will rise up in Judgment against you, and every Sermon you have heard this Day will but increase your Damnation; that which should be a Saviour of Life unto Life, will be but a Saviour of Death unto your Souls; Examine your Hearts, and see how it is between you and Christ; see if thou hast given Hand and thy Heart to the Redeemer, and if you and Jesus Christ are now become one. Few of you comparitively speaking, I believe, can say so; but yet, I would hope, there is a goodly Number of

you,

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you, notwithstanding, can say, Well, thro' the Grace of God, I can go alongst with you, my Heart tallies with your Preaching: I was once wedded to the Law, and my own Righteousness, but, blessed be God, I have buried these Husbands long ago, blessed be God I have been espoused as a chaste Virgin to Jesus Christ, blessed be God I sat at his Table To-day, he led me into his Banqueting-house, and his Banner over me was Love: Blessed be his Name he renewed the Tokens of my Espousals To-day; he said unto me, *Eat, O Friends! Drink, yea drink*

*abundantly*: He took me in To-day and gave me a Wedding-garment: He comforted my Heart with Flaggons, and sent me from his Table sick of Love. Blessed be God, I can say, I am one with Christ, and Christ is one with me, *to me to live is Christ: it is not I that live, but the Lord Jesus Christ lives in me*. Can ye say so, O Man, O Woman, little Boy or Girl, for Christ marries young Ones to himself? Can you say this on good Ground? Then you know it is customary for People, upon their Marriage, to be wished Joy, and indeed I wish you joy with all my Heart: *Thy Maker is thy Husband [the LORD of Hosts is his Name] thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel, the GOD of the whole Earth shall he be called*. Give me Leave to salute you that can say so; for, I am sure the Angels sing over you: You know it is customary for People to sing at a Marriage; the Angels have tuned their Harps and sung an Anthem, they have been singing over us To-day, and will sing over you ere long in the Kingdom of God. But let me exhort you, since God has done you such Honour, to walk humbly before your Husband. When Women are married to Persons above them, when they are honoured with unexpected Honours, as *Esther* was married to King *Ahasuerus*, 'tis a very proper Caution to bid People *look to the Rock from whence they were hewn*, to walk

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very humbly, and circumspectly, and to think of the Honour God has put upon them.

Now I pray you remember, if you are married to Christ, that you do not grow proud; for you were black as the Devil before he married you: There was nothing in you to make him love you; He *loved thee because he would love thee: He had Compassion on thee because he would have Compassion on thee. You were in your Blood, he past by you, and said unto you, Live*. Why then, let that God exalting, and that Self-abasing Expression he often in your Mouth, *Why me Lord, Why me Lord!* When the *Virgin Mary* came to pay *Elizabeth* a Visit, says she, *As soon as I herd the Voice of thy Salutation, the Babe leaped in my Womb, and whence is it (says she) that the Mother of my Lord should come to see me*. Nay, say more, Whence is it that the Lord himself, the Son of God, the LORD of Hosts, should come and take Possession of your Heart? Ly then, I say, humble at his Feet, walk humbly, O believing Communicants, before your God, and remember what Duties are owing by you, as ye have heard, under so near a Relation to Jesus Christ. Now I believe there are but few People that know the Mystery of Marriage, and that great Union that is represented between

Jesus Christ and the Church. People marry like Brutes, and they live like Brutes: They do not marry in the Lord, neither do they live to the Lord, therefore they are ignorant of the sacred Tye of Marriage: But observe, the Apostle tells us, *That the Wife is to be the Glory of the Man, even as the Church is the Glory of Jesus Christ.*

You Women that are married, 'tis your Duty so to live, and so to walk, as you may be the Glory of your Husband, that your Husband may hear People commending you for your Virtue, that they may hear People commending you for your industry, hear People commending you for your heavenly Mindedness. Ye should so live and so walk that every

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every one that sees your Conduct may be made to say, Happy the Man that has got such a Woman for his Wife. Well then, if the Wife is to be the Glory of the Husband, you that are married to Christ, you are to walk humbly, you are to live so sweetly, you are to walk so circumspectly, that you may be a Glory to Christ, that the Lord Jesus may be proud of you: Ye must do nothing to disgrace your Husband, ye must do nothing to disgrace Jesus Christ.

Again, we are told in *Genesis*, when they fell from God, and eat the forbidden Fruit, God said to *Eve*, *Thy Desire shall be to thy Husband.* A Woman's Desire ought to be rationally carried out after her Husband, next to God, next to Christ. Her Husband is her nearest Relation: Her Husband represents Christ: The Desire of a Woman should be carried out continually after her Husband. For the Lord's Sake, now, if Christ be your Husband, if you are espoused to Christ, O! your Soul ought to be carried our after him Night and Day, you should feel such a divine Attraction in your Soul that you should never be easy, but when you are thinking of your Husband: Ye should never be easy, but when ye find your Heart drawn our after Christ. Your Desire should be to him, and ye need not fear exceeding; 'tis true you may be too fond of a Husband, ye may exceed in that, tho' there are but few that do exceed; Ye may be too fond of the Creature, which may interpose between you and your Creator; but you can never be too fond of Christ, your Affections can never be carried out too strongly toward him: You may, think of him again and again, and the more you desire him, the more he loves you.

Again, *Thy Desire shall be to thy Husband, says God, and he shall rule over thee.* There are a great many Wives, they not only thwart a divine Command but they thwart a divine Curse, instead of their

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Husband's ruling them, they rule their Husband, cursed be that ruling Temper, 'tis a Dishonour to God, and, Persons that love the Lord, they will sooner die than dare to usurp over their Husband: If you are good Wives, ye will reckon it your Priviledge to obey, ye will reckon it your Privilege viledge to obey, ye will reckon it your privilege kiss your Husband's Feet: If ye are good Wives, and obey in and for the Lord, ye will not dare to trample upon your Husband, who is the Representative to you of the Son of God, and if you are united to the Lord Jesus Christ, if your Maker is your Husband, your Desire will be to him, and he will rule over you, be will reign King in your Heart, he will reign as sole Governour there. *Thou hast redeemed us unto God, that we may he Kings and Priests unto God.*

Again, the Apostle tells us, *That a Woman that is married, she cares,* observe, she cares how she may please her Husband. You that are married, your Eyes ought to be continually upon your Husbands that you may know what you should do to please them, to know how to make their Life happy and agreeable: Your Eye should continually be upon them, that you may know what to do to make their Life comfortable and easy, that you may be a Help meet for them indeed. Now, if you are married to Christ, your Eye will be always upon Christ; you will be careful from Morning to Night to know bow ye may please Christ, the Language of your Heart will be, O my dear Saviour! O my lovely Jesus! What shall I do for thee? Again Wives are to reverence their Husbands; Observe what the Apostle says, *Let the Wife to it,* let her see that she reverence her Husband. 'Tis your Duty that are married to have a great Regard for your Husbands; your Husbands can never love you, if they find that you despise them. Ye should have high Thoughts of your Husbands, and love them and reverence them for Jesus Christ's Sake, Now,

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if you are married to Christ, see that you reverence your Husband, see that you have a great Regard for him, see that, whenever you approach him, ye approach him with a godly Fear: I hate that Familiarity that breeds Contempt, and when you grow too familiar with Christ, when

ye do not keep at a proper Distance from Christ, then Christ absents himself from your Soul, so that if you are married to your Husband Christ, see that you reverence him, and ye ought to reverence him, For the LORD of Hosts is his Name, the GOD of the whole Earth shall he be called.

Again, if you are married, you know ye take one another for better, for worst, and that Wife is unworthy of the Name of a Wife, that will not die with, and for her Husband, that will not follow him, and be a Stranger and Pilgrim upon the Earth alongst with him, that will not travel with him, it God shall call them, even thro' a Sea of Blood: That Wife is not worthy the Name of a Wife, that will not be willing to go to Prison or to Death with her Husband. Now, if you are married to Jesus Christ you must take him for better, for worse, ye must take up his Cross, and go along with him, you must follow him, though, it were through a Sea of Blood, and if you love him you will be glad to do it, and count it an Honour when ye are called to suffer for his Name sake.

Again, if you are married, your Husbands require that you should be faithful; 'tis one Part of your Marriage vow, that, forsaking all others, ye should cleave to him alone: What if your Husband should catch you in Adultery? What do ye deserve? The common Law will take hold of you: 'Tis an iniquity to be punished, even by the judge. Well then, if you are married to Christ, take Care of committing spiritual Adultery against him, take Care that you prove faithful to him, take Care that when he comes to knock at thy Heart, thou hast not

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got some Rival entertained there, if thou hast, Jesus is a jealous Husband, he cannot bear a Rival. If a Husband had a Wife that would be false to his Bed, he cannot but hate that Wife. Husbands love to have their Wives doing every thing willingly, not as of constraint. Now, if ye are married to Christ, ye must not only obey him, but obey him out of Love. A Woman that loves her Husband will be as glad when her Husband bids her do any Thing for him, she will think it the highest Honour, she will think herself highly priviledged when she can do any Thing for her Lord and Head: And if ye are married to Christ ye will be glad to do any Thing for Christ, ye will be glad of every Opportunity of serving him. Once more, another Thing occurs to me, and that is this, A Wife ought not only to be obliging to her Husband, but her Husband's Friends; the Husband loves to have his own Relations taken Notice of and entertained

like himself: And now, if Christ be your Husband, ye will be glad to see any of Christ's Friends in your House, ye will say, Come in thou blessed of the Lord, ye belong to my Husband, ye are related to my Redeemer.

Now this is what occurs to me at present, to speak to you in a special Manner that have been this Day communicating at the Lord's Table, and can say, *Our Maker is our Husband*: But I fear, tho' there be a goodly Company of Christians here together, yet I fear, comparatively speaking, the Number of such People are but few: However I believe, upon Examination, at least, I am sure, I can say upon Examination of my own Heart, we have not behaved so faithful as we ought to Jesus Christ: How many Rivals have you and I admitted into our Heart since we were first married to the Son of God? What spiritual Adulterers? What spiritual Adulteresses have we been? How little have we revered him How little have we loved him? How

little

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little have we done for him? How have we been his Disgrace. Well then, some, perhaps, may say, Christ will give me a Bill of Divorce, and put me away: No, blessed be God, you are married to a Saviour that hates putting away, thou backsliding Creature, tho' thou hall been false to his Bed before, come now, whoever thou art, and he will forgive thee all again: O he is a loving Husband, tho' thou hast been a Backslider, he is not like our earthly Husbands that will never be reconciled, but he is a Husband that will receive thee as though thou hadst never offended him, he will renew his Love to you as much as if ye were but just now married to him: O what a precious Husband is Christ! happy you that are espoused to him! His Name, his Nature is Love, he changeth not, he hates puting away: But, alas! I fear, most here cannot say so, I fear most of you are wedded to the Law, to your own Righteousness, to the Lust of the Eye, the Lust of the Flesh, and the Pride of Life. I fear there are but few that can say, *Our Maker is our Husband*. What shall I say to you, O poor Creatures, I pity you; We genenerally pity People that are ill married, we say such an one has, got a churlish Husband, poor Creature! she is unhappy, she has got a sorry Bargain. Poor Creatures you have made a sorry Bargain; when you go to Bed you take the Devil with you, he goes out and in with you, he follows you closs, he rules in you, he acts by you, and you are Drudges to the Devil: This is the Case with you, that cannot say, *Your Maker is your Husband*; the Devil, not your Maker, is your Husband; and how can you love such an ugly Husband?

How can you love such a wicked Husband? O if ye knew how wicked a Husband. he is; he'll do nothing but curse your; if you are married to the Law the Law will do nothing but curse you, and can ye bear to live with a Husband that curses you: If ye are married to your own Righteousness, your own Righteousness can do not

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thing for you, it cannot save you in the Sight of God, it is to be married to a Husband that's good for nothing; but I think you should sue out for a Bill of Divorce, and get another Husband immediately; and if you are willing, O poor Soul, I am come here to offer you a better Husband, I am come this Night to fetch a Wife for my Master Jesus. Are any of you weary of your old Husbands, and ready to say, Well, I will bid a Divorce to the World, I will bid a Divorce to the Devil, I will bid a Divorce to the Law, I will bid a Divorce to my own Righteousness. Will ye so, Well then, I am come to offer you a very glorious *Match* to Night O Sinner! I am come in the Name of the Lord God, I am come in the Name of the God of Heaven and Earth to espouse you to Jesus Christ. When *Abraham's* Servant went to fetch a Wife for *Isaac*, ye know he commended his Master, he entetained *Rebeka's* Relations, and told them how rich his Matter was. When People marry, they generally ask, Has he or she married a Fortune, a great Man. Well then, if you want a rich Husband, if you want a great Husband, I am sure you will be married to Jesus Christ; for my Master Jesus is infinitely great, *The Lord of Hosts is his Name*, he rules Heaven and Earth.

I can lay of my Master what the Devil could not say with Truth to Christ, *All those Things, all the Kingdoms of the World, and the Glory of them will I give thee*. He was a Liar, they were not his to give; the Kingdoms of the upper World, and the Glories of them all belong to my Master Jesus. God the Father has given him a Name above every Name. Ye would be glad if ye were to be married to a Prince, ye would be glad if any of you were to be espoused to one of the young Princesses, or if a Duke were to come and offer any of your Daughters Marriage, all *Scotland* would reign at the News of it: But now I come to propose a Marriage between you and the King of

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Kings

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Kings, and Lord of Lords, and you bid me go away with my Master. O ungrateful Creature! Well, Do you love a rich Husband? Why then

I am sure you will have Jesus Christ. You'll ask me how rich he is? Why, I can't tell you his Riches are unsearchable, to me who am less than the least of all Saints, is this Grace given that I should preach among poor Sinners the unsearchable Riches of Christ: There is no End of my Master's Riches, never any one could search them; he has got an unsearchable Mine that ye will never get to the Bottom of.

If you be for a great Husband, a rich one, I am sure you're Fools if you do not marry Christ; you'll ask me, Is he a good Husband? Yes, he is good, great, and loves to do good. People generally love to have a good Husband; then I am sure you must be married to the Lord Jesus; for he is not only the Lord of Hosts, but he is likewise your Redeemer, the holy One of Israel, he is good and he is gracious; nay, he is Goodness itself.

But there is many that love a beautiful Husband; Do you so? Then I am sure, you must be married to Christ; ye heard the Character of your Husband a Character given him by one of his Wives; *He is altogether lovely: This is my Beloved: This is my Friend, O Daughters of Jerusalem. Why? he is the fairest among 10000, white and ruddy, altogether lovely.* And therefore if you will have a beautiful Husband, a rich Husband, and a good one, you must be married to Jesus Christ: But then, perhaps, ye may say, he may be lovely, but is he loving? yes, I tell thee he is loving, exceeding loving. Christ is not only loving, but *Love* itself; he is all Love: Dear, Dear, he will be the tenderest Husband, he will love thee, nay, he has shown his Love for thee, he can do no more, he has come and shed his precious Blood for thee. It was a Sign that *Jacob* loved *Rachel* when he served 14 Years for her: But it was a greater Sign

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that Christ loved Sinners, when he came down from Heaven to Earth, and shed his precious Heart's Blood for thee; and if it was necessary he would shed his Blood for thee again.

And then I can tell you another Thing, he is not only a loving Husband, a lovely Husband, a good Husband, a great Husband, and a rich Husband; but he is a faithful Husband; When we are married, and here promise to be faithful, there comes in at last that shocking Clause, *Till* Death us part, that comes in and puts, as it were, a Damp upon the happy Union: But I tell you Death itself shall not part you from Christ. There is no till Death us part in the Marriage-Contract between Christ and a poor Sinner; but Death itself shall bring thee nearer to thy Husband, nay,

your dying Day shall be your Wed-ding-day, and Christ shall make a Show of you before all the Court of Heaven: If thou be faithful to him he will not forsake thee. I must tell thee once more that he is a wise Husband, exceeding wife, he will instruct thee, he will make thee wife to everlasting Salvation: So unsearchable are the Depths of his Wisdom!

I think my Heart so deeply engaged in this that I could spend a considerable Time in setting forth the Excellencies of the Lord Jesus Christ; but I fear I would only spill his Beauty, I fear I shall be like an unskilful Limner, that would spill a Face by pretending to draw it. Brethren, Jesus Christ is so glorious that the Angels are lost when they look at him: they veil their Faces, they are obliged to put their Wings before their Faces: he is so beautiful, so glorious. I have said enough, I think, to attract any of your Hearts, if God is pleased to touch them with a holy Fire. And now give me Leave to put one Question more to your Hearts: You must give me an Answer to Night, for I must go to my Master, and if ye will not come to him, I will go somewhere else and see whether other People will have

him

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him. Will you go then with the Man? Will ye go to God-man? Do you think, you ever shall have such an Offer again? Will the Devil give you such an Offer; he will tell you, he will give the Kingdoms of the World, and the Glory of them, but they are not his to give; but he'll give you Hell for your Portion at last. But my Master never fails: I'll appeal to any one here, that ever knew him, if they dare charge him with one base Thing: No, no, in the Day of Judgment ye will be made to say, *He is altogether lovely*, unspeakably better than he can be called. I'll ask you but again, Will you go, or will you not go? Why? Methinks I hear some say, Indeed I would go, but I am so very poor that I am afraid Christ will not marry me: O Dear! thou art just such a Wife I want for my Master, I want a poor Wife: *Blessed are the Poor in Heart, for they shall inherit the Kingdom of Heaven*. When the Lord Jesus Christ came into the World, What did he do? Did he go to *Jerusalem*, and take one of *Herod's* royal Dames? No, he past over stately Palaces and made Choice of a poor, but humble, Virgin, a poor despised *Galilean*; so that blessed are the Poor, ye are the very People that I want for my Master. My Master is not like the great People: Dukes match with Dukes, King's Sons with King's Daughters: But Christ loves Sinners; *He came into the World to seek and save that which was lost*. But some may say, I would

marry him, but I am so much in Debt, he will not marry me. O! he will pay all your Debt, whatever thou hast contracted: If thou owest 10000 Talents he has paid them all. He will be glad to pay thy Debt. He will not do as many Husbands do, strike their Wives to Death; No, no, if thou art a poor Bankrupt owing Millions of Talents the Lord Jesus will freely pay it all, and love thee the better, because he has paid so much for thee, but you may say, I am not only poor, and in Debt, but I am miserable, and will Christ match with such

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a miserable Creature as I am? Yes, yes, my Master loves to make the miserable happy, my Master loves to make them happy, happy who are bound in Fetters of Sin, who are galled with the Iron Yoke, who we crying out for the Weariness of Sin; his Name is Love, and he delights to make them happy: Therefore your Misery cannot be any Objection. But then you'll say, I have got no Cloaths, I am poor, miserable and naked, I am quite naked O Dear! let not that stop the Match, for here is a Wedding-garment for thee, here's the best Robe, a Robe weaved in the Blood of God, a gorgeous Robe, a purple Robe: So soon as ye come to him, my Master will put it upon thy Soul immediately; Never as there such a Wedding-garment as this, a Garment roll'd in Blood, a purple Robe, a Crimion Robe, an expensive Robe, he bought it with his Blood, and he bids me tell you, you shall have it To-day, if you please. I hope the Spirit of God, while I speaking, will incline your Heart, and I hope, while I am speaking, ye shall find it put upon your Souls before ye are aware. Well then, tho' ye are poor, tho' ye are miserable, tho' ye are in Debt, tho' ye are naked, that will be no Objection at all. But you may say, I am as ugly as the Devil, as black as Hell, I am sure ye will say so if ye knew your own Hearts; your Hearts are black as Hell, if ye are out of Jesus Christ you have got an imbred Hell in your Souls: 'I am in 'Hell (says Bishop *Walker*) I am as hellish as Hell 'itself.' Well, tho' thou art as black, as Hell, yet when thou art married to Jesus Christ he will count thee altogether fair. I am black, says the Spouse: No, Thou art fair, my Spouse, Jesus chuses us because we are black, because he has Beauty enough to put upon us.

Now, my dear Friends, What shall I say more? have you got any more Objections to make? In the Name of God, I will undertake to answer them all.

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I find you have but one more Objection, and that is that damnable Sin of Unbelief keeps you back, there it is, if I was to come and tell you of a Husband, and give you such a Character of him, ye would find your Heart warm, ye would say, We will go, but your Unbelief makes you cry out, I will not go. Will you not? If ye do not, I know where ye will go, by and by, ye will go to Hell, do not think God will always woo you, do not think God will always invite you; No, no, if you do not match with Christ, you may be matched with the Devil before the Morning. Why then, I think I hear some of you say, Do not be so hard on me; for indeed I am willing to go, but I cannot walk; when I begin to step to go alongst with you, somethings pulls me back: Well then, I tell thee I have got such a loving Master, that he will send his blessed Spirit to help thee forward, and make the Lame to walk: Thy heavenly Father, seeing thou art in the Way, shall run, and give thy dear returning *Soul* a Meeting; he'll come and meet thee half way, he'll come and fall on thy Neck and kiss thee. What say you now? Why? me thinks, I hear some say, I will go; Well then, will you give me Leave to go alongst with you? I'll show you the Way, I will introduce you to my Master Jesus, I'll tell my Master Jesus to Night when I go to my private Retirement Lord, they will go, Will ye to? Then Christ will say, Sing ye Heavens, rejoice over these poor Souls returning to me Tonight, and indeed I believe the Angels will have a good deal of sweet Work To day, to sing over many Souls that have been married at *Kilsyth* and *Cambuslang* To day: Sure there will be uncommon Joy in Heaven To-day, the blessed Angels will be sweetly imloyed, when the Burden of their Song will be, These are they that were lost, but they are found, they were dead, but now alive again: This is the Anthem they are singing above over many of

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you.

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you. I would hope and believe that the many Prayers that have been put up for you last Night have been heard, and God surely will not send 2000 of you here, & not chuse some of you To-day.

I know many of you will turn your Backs, and ye will not like my Master's Offer: He has no Form nor Comliness in your Eye, if you cannot have his Crown without his Cross ye shall not have him at all, O ungrateful Wretches; you'll be glad to have him when he comes to Judgment, when he lays, *Depart ye Damned into eternal Fire prepared for*

*the Devil and his Angels*; then you'll say, O that I had married Jesus Christ, O that I had been espoused to the dear Lamb of God: Then you'll find what a Husband the Devil is; then ye will find what an ugly House he has got to bring you to; then ye shall find what devilish Company is in his House that is full of Darkness: Your Wedding-dinner shall be Hell-fire; Fire and Brimstone: How will ye endure to feast upon that, and this must be your Intertainment, unless ye are espoused to my Master Jesus Christ. Once more will you go, or will you not? Will you take him? Will you have him? Have you a Mind for great, a rich Husband: Come here, he will make over all his Glory to you To-night: I will not go away without some of you I know the Lord has not sent me here for nothing To day, I know the Lord has sat at his Table To-day. Come thou black deformed Creature, come thou ungrateful Wretch, come thou Prodigal, come thou foolish Creature, match with this Husband. I am sure for thou art foolish that will not match with such a Husband, ye will never have such an Offer, and I cannot think to part with you till you go along with me. I have endavoured to answer all Objections, but me thinks I hear some Backsliders say, Shall I go to my Husband back again? I find it was better with me, when I was with him, than now: I departed from him, the Devil, the World, the Flesh have ravished my Heart. Do you think he'll have Mercy upon me, if I come home and be an obedient Child and Wife for the future? Yes, he

will

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will take him, come to him thou backsliding, downcasten Creature, & he'll yet receive thee into his Love. And, now my Friends, What shall I say more? The Day is far spent, the Night is at Hand; Will you match with Christ or with the Devil? Will you have Heaven, or are you resolved to go to Hell? I told you before, & I tell you again, my Master will not ask you always. Some of you may say, I pray thee have me excused: Perhaps God may excuse you, and say, None of these that were bidden shall taste of my Supper: I have offered them my Son, but they will not have him, they shall never dwell with me in the Kingdom of Heaven. O may God grant you may lay these Things to Heart: we see here as awful a Sight now as has been seen in *Scotland* for many a Day: Look round about and see what a Multitude of Souls are here, What a Mercy is it that you are not in Hell? Why are you not cut off long ago? And yet Jesus now calls; Wisdom lifts up her Voice, *How long ye Scorners will ye delight in scorning, and Fools hate Knowledge? Turn, turn at my Reproof,*

*Why will you die? Why will you be damned? Why will you prefer Hell to Heaven? Why will ye not have Jesus Christ your Maker to be your Husband? The Lord of Hosts is his Name, he is your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, the God of the whole Earth shall he be called.* Remember the awful solemn Work you have been about To-day: You have had 6 or 7 Ministers, and as many Elders, waiting on you from Morning till Night, so that they have had scarce Time to eat their Bread, their Business has been to invite you to Christ and to advise you to fly from the Wrath to come. There has been a great Multitude here To-day: It strikes my Heart when I think that, in a few Years, most of you may be howling in Hell. I would weep over you, when I see a Company, the greatest Part unconcerned about their Souls; What signifies your having got Bibles, and putting God off with Duties; it will increase your Torment in another World, unless your Hearts are united to Jesus Christ by Faith. I would say more but I am afraid

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of surfeiting you, you have got so many Preachings, and so many Invitations that I fear ye do not take Care to improve them as ye ought. O do not provoke God to send you a Famine of the Word, do not provoke God to take the Kingdom of God from you. There has been a great Awakning in this Place: As God has chosen this Spot of Ground to be the Place of the new Birth to many Souls, O beg of God that you may be added to the happy Number To-day: There is yet Room in the Blood of Christ for you all, Whoremongers and Drunkards, Murderers of Fathers and Murderers of Mothers, Adulterers, Adulteresses, common Prostitutes, Keepers of Misses, the vilest Sinners may come to Christ, may wash and be clean. Wash you then, make you clean, Sinners, behold the Pool of his Blood is now opened unto you, there has been this Day a moving upon the Waters, the Angel of the everlasting Covenant has descended and troubled the Waters. May God take hold of your Hand, and dip you in the Redeemer's Blood! May you go away and say, Blessed be God I was married to Christ, To-day! May I meet you in the Kingdom of Heaven, as a good Woman met a *Scotish* Minister, and told him in the Name of her Sister, or one of her Relations that died in the Lord? said she, 'My Sister bid me tell you, when 'ever I saw you, that such a Day, in such a Church, 'you married her to Jesus Christ.' O that I could say of you, I married some of you to the Son of God. O that ye may be able to tell me, at the Day of Judgment, that this was the happy Place

where you were married to Jesus Christ. This would then be a *Bethel*, a House of God, a Gate of Heaven to thy Soul.

May God the eternal GOD, *the LORD of Hosts, the Redeemer, the holy One of Israel, the God of the whole Earth*, the infinite God, the high and lofty One that inhabiteth Eternity, bless what has been spoken: May he grant this for the Lord Jesus Christ's Sake! To whom with the Father, and eternal Spirit, be all Honour, and Glory, now, and for evermore, *Amen.*

***FINIS.***



THE BEST MATCH



