

# Fasting for Him

Was it for Me that you fasted? ~Zechariah 7:5

## Matthew 9:14-17 (READ)

Matthew 9: Context: Jesus is blowing everyone's Mind!

### Vs 14

-The question: Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?

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### Vs 15

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-The answer: The attendants of the bridegroom cannot mourn while the bridegroom is with them:

-**quick terminology observation:**

-Now back to **Jesus' answer**:

-**Hosea 2:19-20**

-**Genesis 2:24**

-**fasting as an indictment:**

-But even though the disciples of Jesus don't fast when He is physically present there will be a time when he is taken away and then Jesus says **they will fast.**

-When is this time?

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-Conclusion:

-If its true that we fast now between His first and second coming, and fasting has to do in some ways with mourning or longing, *How do we reconcile this with the joy we've experience through the gospel and the coming of the Spirit?*

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-2 Cor 12:21

-2 Cor 7:6-7

-Jesus says **blessed are those who mourn.**

-The NT scriptures continually tell us of the eager expectations the saints should have and will have for Christ's return:

>2 Tim 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His **appearing.**

>Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus

>1 Peter 1:13 fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

>2 Peter 3:12 looking for and hastening (*eagerly desiring... "hurry up!"*) the coming of the day of God

>James 5:8 Therefore you too be patient, strengthen your hearts for the coming of the Lord is near

And here are some texts that describe that glorious day:

>Revelation 19:6b-9 "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give glory to Him for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. It was given to Her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. The he said to me, "Write, Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said to me "these are true words of God."

>Revelation 21:2 "And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from behind the Throne saying behold the tabernacle of God is among men and He will dwell among them and they shall be His people and God Himself will be among them and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any *mourning* or crying or pain; the first things have passed away and He sits on the throne says Behold I am making all things new."

>Revelation 22:17, 20 (responding to Christ's declaration in vs 12 that He is coming)... "The Spirit and the bride say come. let anyone who hears say come." Vs 20 He who testifies to these things says, Yes I am coming quickly." Amen Come, Lord Jesus!

-This is one of the main reasons we fast... *We fast for more desire for Him and His return!*

### **This week:**

-Steve and I will send at least one main point for which you can pray and fast everyday. You can add to that whatever you like...But for solidarity would like to make sure we are praying for the same things in some measure everyday.

-We will be starting tomorrow and will break the fast on Sunday.

-We don't expect people to fast all seven days. The amount of time you fast is between you and the Lord.

-This is not a competition of how long you can go without food.

-Please try and not discuss your fast with others. Jesus warns loss of reward with fasting to be noticed by men...We are not becoming the fasting church...We are seeking the Lord!

### **Tips:**

-Get sleep. You're already gonna be tired

-When you can, listen to edifying music and read Scripture

-Have a list of people and topics to pray for, your mind will wander

-Dont make vows, no guilt if you break your fast earlier than you thought...Again you are fasting to seek Him. He doesnt need more food in the world. He doesnt need our fasting. We need Him.

-Expect Gods blessing when you fast in faith! This is a means for His kingdom to come in our midst! Rejoice!