WHEN SEVEN WOMEN LAY HOLD ON ONE MAN.

In Jeremiah 6:2, the Bible says, “I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman.” The word comely means good looking; the word delicate means virtuous or chaste. And God says here I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman.

In Ezekiel 23: 2, 4, the Bible says, “Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother: and the names of them were Aholah, the elder, and aholibah her sister: and they were mine, and they bare sons and daughters. Thus were their names: Samaria is Aholah, and Jerusalem is Aholibah.”

This is a prophetic parable. And in this parable, God uses a woman to represent His people. Now I want you to remember something that applies to all prophecies that have this figure. And here it is. A beautiful, clean, chaste, pure woman represents God's true church. Would you say Amen. Revelation 17, the Bible speaks of a great whore. And the term harlot is used. And when God spoke of the great whore that He will judge, He is talking about the apostate or fallen church. So now those are the figures: a clean, pure woman represents God's true church. A no good woman represents the fallen church.

Now brothers and sisters, of all relationships on earth, none is more intimate than husband or wife. None expresses love more than mother and child. There is hardly anything a child can do that will make his mother turn against him. Now the father will turn against the child, but the mother will love the worst child in the family. Now that is a demonstration of God's love, and God uses that figure. He says, can a woman forget her suckling child, yea, she may forget, yet I will not forget thee. Now concerning the intimacy, God uses the marriage relationship to show man, how much he cares. Ephesians 5:25, Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church … 28, So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29, For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord of the church. 32, This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Would you say Amen. Paul is referring to the ideal marriage where a man loves his wife as his own body. And in Hosea 2:19, 20 God says, 19 “… I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness …” 20. “I will betroth thee unto me in faithfulness ….” God says, when you're ready to cut loose from the devil and the world, I will marry you. So the church is typified by a woman, the bride. And Jesus is called in scripture the bridegroom. Would you say Amen. Then in Jeremiah 3:14, as a time when His people were backsliding, God said this: “Turn, O backsliding children, for I am married unto you.” In this text Christ says I’m married to you.

Ladies and gentlemen, Christ has a church. He always has. And the word church in the Bible comes from the Greek word Εκκλησία. And it does mean a building with a steeple and a good organ and oak pews. It means an assembly of called individuals. When God calls people out of darkness into light, that’s His church.

I wanna tell you some of us need to get our minds straight on this because some of us think a church is a building. And some of us worship buildings and congregations. I wanna tell you I’d rather worship God in spirit and truth under a tree than to worship in error in a cathedral. Let’s say Amen out there.

In Matthew 16 Christ says to Peter, upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Christ started a Church, the Christian Church. The twelve apostles became the first twelve leaders of the church. And the church grew and expanded and multiplied. This is the

Lord's church. Incidentally they didn't have any fancy buildings. They met in the upper room. Didn't have a choir, didn't have an organ, didn't even have any big shots in it, but it was God's church. And I will tell you what it did have, it had the Holy Ghost. Amen! It was beautiful, it was obedient, it was loving and it was devoted. This is the way marriages usually began, and the first church was like that. Then something happens to the marriage often. And it happened to Christ and His church.

In Ezekiel 16:8, I want you to listen to what the Bible says. "Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee and covered thy nakedness; yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou became mine." Now this is a parable and God is speaking through a prophet. And God says when I passed by and saw you, you were naked. There's a meaning to that.

The Bible says all our righteousness is but filthy rugs. But those who are clothed with the righteousness of Christ are clothed in linen, clean and white. Let's say amen. Verse 9: "Then I washed thee with water" This is a type of baptism. Baptism is the door to the Lord's church. And everybody joining it ought to be baptized, would you say amen. "… yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil." Oil in prophecy represents the Holy Ghost. Would you say Amen!

Verse 10: "I clothed thee also with broidered work, and shod thee with badger's skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk." Verse 15, "But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by." God says I married you. I clothed you and cleaned you. You are mine! But because I cleaned you up and made you beautiful, you began to trust in your own beauty, and played the harlot.

Ladies and gentlemen, a harlot is a prostitute! Amen. God didn't start a church like that, and He's not gonna save one like that. For the Bible says He is coming for a church not having spot nor wrinkle, nor any such thing. He's coming for a perfect people. Those who go into the kingdom of God are going to be extraordinary people. They're going to be holy, and without fault, the Bible says. Holy and sanctified. You're not going into the kingdom with dirt. The Devil was put out for it, and he's certainly not gonna take a chance on it again.

I heard a story about a man on a safari through Africa. And at night they would pitch a camp. And the people with him would make a fire. And they would put little wood on the bottom and big wood on the top. But in the morning when they would wake up there would be two or three piles out there in the woods; little wood on the bottom and big wood on the top. And so the man on the safari who didn't know how to explain that began to wonder if the jungle too was catching up with them. He thought a ghost was piling that wood. So he called some of the old experienced people on the safari, and he said, "I don't understand this. In the evening we pile up our wood with little wood on the bottom and big wood on the top, and when we wake up there are piles of wood around here; little wood on the bottom and big wood on the top." He said, "How does that come about?" And the old man who was experienced with the jungle said, "Ah, that's easy to explain." He said, "Come here for a minute." And he took him out into the opening, and he said, "Look up into that tree, what do you see?"

The man said, "I see a bunch of monkeys up there." The man said, "That's the answer, monkeys are great imitators. They watch us build the fire; put the little wood on the bottom and big wood on the top. And we go to sleep, they gather some wood. And if you notice they've got the little wood on the

bottom and big wood on the top. In fact, they've got everything except the fire."

That can be said of many institutions today that call themselves churches. They've got choirs and organs and pews. They've got an elite congregation. They've got robes and chasubles and albs. They've got alters and candles and crosses. They've got everything except the fire. The Bible says that a form of godliness but no power. You've gotta have the fire, to put away the liquor bottle, you've gotta have the fire burning in your heart to stay true to your wife. You've gotta have the fire to treat everybody right and love your enemies. Let's say amen.

They've got everything except the fire. Now let's read Isaiah 4:1. "And in that day seven women.." women represents the church in prophecy, seven represents completion or perfection. "in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, we will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel; only let us be called by thy name to take away our reproach." You get that! Now if the women represent the church, let's find out who the man is.

One day Jesus! Jesus came and began His ministry. And Pilate declared "ˈɛkkɛ ˈhɔmo" – Behold the man! You know it pleases me to know that Jesus was a man. And a man has to do more than wear trousers. The idea carries with it stability, power, strength, integrity, dignity, and honor. Gentlemen, let's be men. It takes a man to say no to some temptations flirting by. Anyone can give in, it takes a man to say no even if he wants to do it. Jesus was a man.

The church taking a hold of Christ. The church in completion, all denominations saying: He's ours. We are Christians. They take hold of Him saying, we will eat our own bread.

In Matthew 4:4, Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." The bread of life is the Scriptures! Read that in John 6. Ladies and gentlemen, not because I am here, no matter who's here. If you come out night after night and have the word of God, you are being fed with the bread of life.

But these women said, we'll eat our own bread, we don't want yours. You've got some things you say, but we've got some traditions that are more interesting. Therefore, you don't need to feed us. Just let us have your name. And these folks wanna be called by His name. And they wanna gamble, go to the race track, go to the x-rated movies, go to night clubs and shows and sit up and drink their cocktails. We'll eat our own bread, we just wanna be called by your name.

Then they say, we will wear our own apparel. Ladies and gentlemen, make no mistake about it. You will never be saved because you are good. You will never be saved because you give money. You will never be saved because you are a moralist. You will never be saved because you don't do certain things. Every man who will be saved in God's kingdom will be saved because of the blood of the lamb. And will be clothed with the life of Jesus Christ. These people don't want that, however. They say we will wear our own clothes. We'll do as we want, we'll work it out our way. And you'll hear them say, "It doesn't matter what you believe, we're all going the same way. Now that doesn't make sense. If you're going the same way you ought to believe the same thing. And all we need to do is get back to the Bible, and every Christian will believe the same thing.

There are not 500 ways in this Bible, but there is one faith, one Lord, one baptism. Let's say Amen out there. The division is not because God's word has a thousand ways, it's because people do what they wanna do. They do their own thing. But they say, don't worry because we're all different, we're going the same way. No, we are not! But I wanna tell you something. If you're following God's will, all of it as far as you know, you're headed to the kingdom. If you are not you are not headed to the

kingdom.

According to 2 Timothy 3:5, they have a “form of godliness, but deny the power.” They have a ritual, they have a liturgy, they have a ceremony and it’s impressive and beautiful. Is this worship? Having a form of godliness but not enough power to live straight. Not enough power to say no to temptation. Not enough power to call sin by its right name. And ladies and gentlemen, some of these things done today in the name of Christianity are an abomination, they are nothing more than sophisticated heathenism:

1. Prayer to the dead. Pagans were doing that before Christ was born into this world. Amen.

2. Easter. Now wait a minute, preacher, are you against Easter? No. I have nothing against Easter. Is that clear? If Easter is a day that commemorates the death and resurrection of the Lord there is nothing wrong with it. But, what has an egg and a rabbit have to do with the resurrection of the Lord? Rabbits and eggs are not Christian.

3. Christmas. I love Christmas. But what has Santa Claus have to do with Christ’s birth? You ought to go to the library, pick up an encyclopedia and look it up. Look up Christmas, and Santa Claus which is apparition St. Nicolas. A Christmas tree has nothing to do with the birth of Christ! I’m not even condemning it. I’m saying we ought to understand what we are doing. These were heathen customs that were brought into the church.

In Revelation 14:8, the Bible says “And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” Babylon is a term that denotes spiritual confusion. And God says, there is a fall in Christendom today. And then in Revelation 18:4, God says, “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not her plagues.” Babylon is fallen! There is spiritual corruption. Christ says come out and be ye separate. People can lie and gamble and cheat and commit adultery and drink and smoke and yet remain members of the church in good and regular standing. The Lord says, it is an abomination in His sight. The dictionary defines a Christian as one who thinks as Christ thought and acts as Christ acted.

Ladies and gentlemen we got to live right. The Bible has got to be our guide. You can’t enjoy all the pleasures of sin and still be a good Christian. Jesus said in vain. In what? It is not enough to belong to the church. For your worship will be in vain if they are teaching for doctrines and the commandments of men instead of the commandments of God. Eating our own bread, wearing our own apparel. Christ, the greatest gift heaven could bestow has been let down to earth to become the connection between God and man. And how it cost Him!

The Son of God. The darling of heaven, left the fair coasts of the Promised Land. Came into the world of woe. Born into a poor family. Shew up in a rough little town. Went to the cross. They spit on until it ran down and dripped out of His beard. They laid His back open with a whip. They drop a 350 pound cross on His shoulder. He went on to Calvary, and the Great God of heaven allowed them to crucify Him. God was nailed to the cross. And the ringing hammer could be heard across the Judean hills. And Jesus couldn’t save Himself. Because if He had saved Himself, He couldn’t have saved us. And Jesus cried out, “Father, forgive them for they now not what they do.”

The blood of Jesus can cleanse us and the power of Jesus can keep us clean. Everybody talking about heaven aint going there. I wanna tell you that there is a church somewhere with a high

standard. Can’t do as you please in that church. God’s got a church.

I wanna ask you a question: do you wanna present your body to God as a living sacrifice? I’m not asking you to join a church. But do you want to present your body to the Lord? Are you willing? If you are and you want me to pray for you, then stand and bow your head respectfully as I pray for you.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, today every conceivable evil is practiced in the name of Christianity. But You are gonna come for a perfect people. Tonight, in the night clubs and theatres if this city are men and women, boys and girls call themselves Christians, but You are gonna come for a perfect people. Lord, all of us are sinners unless You straighten us out.

Lord have mercy on us tonight. We’re standing in your presence because we don’t wanna be lost. We’re tired of playing church. We wanna get right with God, and do it now. We wanna overcome sins. Please Lord, speak to us tonight. Help us to know if we are willing and obedient you will cleanse us. Save our souls and keep us every day until that day. Please get us ready, we beg you in beautiful, tender, loving name of Jesus.

There is hope for you, but it’s not enough to wear His name.
There is hope for you, His will remain the same.
There is hope, I say, when His grace you claim.
There is hope in Christ for you.
There is hope for you, through Christ from day to day.
There is hope for you, just walk in His clear way.
There is hope for you, His blessed will obey.
There is hope in Him for thee.