

JESUS the Bridegroom **Text: Matthew 9:14–15**

Bill Turner

1. **Marriage is not a social construct invented over time by humans**
 - a. Marriage was created by God in the garden of eden, before sin, suffering, death
 - b. Marriage was plan A from the beginning—a piece of paradise still w/ us from Garden of Eden
 2. **So it shouldn't surprise us that God uses Marriage as a Spiritual Metaphor...**
-

I. JESUS THE BRIDEGROOM

A. WHY DID JESUS REFER TO HIMSELF AS THE BRIDEGROOM?

1. **We See Jesus Refer to Himself as the Bridegroom... (Matthew 9:14-15)**
2. **There is a Time to Mourn and Fast—but there is also a Time to Rejoice**
3. **'BRIDEGROOM' is Defined as: “A man on his wedding day, just before or after the event.” (Oxford American Dictionary)**

B. A PARABLE REGARDING THE BRIDEGROOM (Matthew 25:1-13)

1. **I Don't know of any weddings that have ever started on time!**
 - a) A traveler driving down a road in Galilee saw ten maidens who were dressed up, singing & playing some type of instrument and dancing in the road in front of the car.
 - b) He asked what they were doing. and his interpreter said: they were going to keep the bride company till her bridegroom arrived.
 - c) “I asked him if there was any chance of seeing the wedding, but he shook his head, saying in effect: “It might be tonight, or tomorrow night, or [the next], nobody ever knows for certain.”
 - d) The Interpreter then told him that there was an old tradition of the bridegroom surprising the bridal party unexpectedly after dark.
 - e) When they're all asleep & the shout awakens them that the bridegroom has arrived
2. **But the parable has at least two universal warnings¹—It Warns Us That:**

(1) **Some Things in Life Cannot Be Obtained at the Last Minute.**

You can't Wait until the Day of the Final Exam to Study—to pass the test
You Can't Develop Good Character by Waiting until Last Minute

(2) **There are Some Things in Life That Cannot be Borrowed.**

The Foolish Virgins Were Not Prepared & Tried to Borrow what they Didn't Have
You cannot borrow a relationship with God; You must Acquire it for Yourself.
You cannot borrow another person's character
You Can't Borrow Another Person's Faith—You Must Have Your Own

C. SO JESUS CLEARLY REFERS TO HIMSELF AS THE BRIDEGROOM —BUT WHO IS THE BRIDE?

1. **We Have to Look Further into Scripture to Understand the Answer...**
2. **Because Throughout the Bible We See this Marriage Metaphor...**

¹ William Barclay, The Gospel of Matthew (Third Ed., p. 374). Saint Andrew Press.

II. A MARRIAGE METAPHOR

A. IN O.T. MARRIAGE IS USED AS A METAPHOR FOR GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS PEOPLE ...

1. We find this especially in the OT PROPHETS...

- a) **HOSEA:** “And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. ²⁰ I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.” (Hosea 2:19-20)
 - b) **ISAIAH:**
‘Your Maker is your husband; the Lord of hosts is his name’ (Isa. 54:5).
‘As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you’ (Isa. 62:5).
- #### 2. This is Why the Scriptures Refer to Idolatry as Spiritual Adultery...
- a) **HOSEA:** When the Lord began to speak by Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea: “Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry And children of harlotry, For the land has committed great harlotry *By departing* from the Lord.” (Hosea 1:2)
 - b) **ISAIAH to Jerusalem:** ‘How the faithful city has become a harlot!’ (Isa. 1:21).
 - c) **EZEKIEL:** “But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who *would have it*. (Ezek 16:15)
 - d) **JEREMIAH:** God Makes it even clearer (**Jeremiah 3:6–10**)

B. MARRIAGE IS ALSO THE SAME METAPHOR IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. Paul uses this Marriage Metaphor for Christ and His Church (**Eph 5:22-23**)
2. And Again for the exclusive relationship of marriage (**2 Cor. 11:2-4**)
3. Jesus spoke the Famous Parable of the Wedding Feast (**Matthew 22:1–14**)
 - a) The Invitation Went Out—But They Were Too Busy and Too Important to Attend
“The opposite of love is not hate; it’s indifference.” (Elie Wiesel)
 - b) So The Next Invitation Went Out and the Wedding Was Filled with Guests
 - c) But One Guest Refused to Wear the Wedding Garment...
 - d) In Ancient Times the King Provided the Robe
and to Refuse to Wear it is an insult to the King
 - e) When We Are Baptized into Christ—We Accepted the invitation and are Given a Robe of Righteousness (Gal 3:27) Clothed in Christ...
 - f) A Robe Provided by the King—Washed in the Blood of the Lamb
4. Just as Marriage is a Spiritual Metaphor—Spiritual Adultery is as well...
 - a) “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it (Matthew 12:39)
 - b) Some Care More About What They Want then What God Wants (**Mark 8:38**)

³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

III. THE IMPLICATIONS FOR US

A. WHY IS MARRIAGE A METAPHOR FOR GOD AND HIS PEOPLE?

1. Because it is the Closest and most intimate Relationship on earth...

The Two Become One!

- a) No Other Relationship has that level of intimacy or honesty
- b) This is the kind of close relationship we are to have with God through Christ
(Matthew 10:37) He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me.
And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy
- c) **Why Would Jesus Say This?** BECAUSE Family Will Sometimes FAIL You and even turn against you. WHY? Because if Jesus is first they they Aren't first

2. Because it is a Relationship Based on Love...

- a) Not just affectionate love but Agape Self-Sacrificing Love (Eph 5:22)
- b) An Exclusive Love that is a Jealous love (Exodus 20:3; 5-6)
(not morbid jealousy that is self-serving but godly jealousy which is self-giving)
- c) What Paul the Apostle calls a godly jealousy (2 Corinthians 11:2)
- d) A Heart devoted to God instead of the World (James 4:4-6 ESV)

3. Because Marriage is based on Faithful Commitment for Life

4. Because it is a Covenant Relationship For Life

5. Because Marriage is the Beginning of a New Life

For ALL of these Reasons Marriage is a Spiritual Metaphor for our relationship with God

B. WHAT ARE WE TO LEARN FROM THE MARRIAGE METAPHOR?

1. Lesson of the 10 Bridesmaids:

Being PREPARED & Staying PREPARED for the Delay of Bridegroom

2. Lesson of the Wedding Feast:

Being Sure to RESPOND to the Invitation of the King

3. 2nd Lesson of the Wedding Feast:

ACCEPT the Gift of Grace Given by the King—a Robe of Righteousness and be **FAITHFUL** in Wearing it (Revelation 19:6-9)

C. GOD USES THIS MARRIAGE METAPHOR TO EXPRESS...

- 1. His Covenant Faithfulness to His People
- 2. His Everlasting Love for His People
- 3. And the Heartache of His Jealous Love that cares for your soul
- 4. And Also For Our Faithfulness to God... (Revelation 7:13-17)

In good times and bad, for richer or poorer, In Sickness and in Health

CONCLUSION:

- 1. (Revelation 21:9-11a) This is symbolic for God's Kingdom
- 2. The Bride is All of the Redeemed of All Time...
- 3. Whose Robes of Righteousness Were Made White by Blood of Lamb