

Introduction

- Let's take a look at the bridal/wedding language in other places in Scripture.
- Throughout Scripture, marriage is an image of Christ and the Church.
- The final wedding feast is a picture of the celebration Christ's return will bring.

Marriage in Ephesians

- Marriage is a unique and mysterious event that images Christ and the church (v. 32).
- We will ignore the marriage roles for now because the main point is Jesus.
- The bride of Christ is to submit to Christ.
- Christ loved and sacrificed Himself for the bride.
- Christ sanctifies the church through baptism and the preaching of the word.
- Christ will present the bride as blameless on the wedding day.
- Christ nourishes and cherishes the bride.

Song of Songs/Solomon

- This book is all about the love of a bride and bridegroom.
- Historically, the book was understood to be speaking about Christ and the church.
- It has only been taken literally as purely about human sexuality and marriage in the last few centuries.
- The book must be about more than human love if it is a Christian book.
- Both interpretations seem to be valid and Biblically necessary to me.

Hosea

- Hosea establishes that God's relationship with His people is like a marriage.
- Even though God's people have been unfaithful, He will marry them.
- He will renew and sanctify the bride before the wedding.
- The coming wedding day will bring peace forever.
- Christ is willing to marry an adulterous bride because of unconditional love.

Isaiah

- Isaiah uses wedding imagery to talk about the future blessings the Messiah brings.
- The Messiah will clothe His people in righteousness like a bride (61:10).
- The land will not be desolate, but married to God (62:4).
- God will rejoice over His people like a bride (62:5)
- The final day will be a great feast of food and wine (25:6).
- The final feast will celebrate the end of death and tears.

Gospels

- John the Baptist clearly calls Christ the bridegroom (John 3:28-29).
- Jesus, in the synoptic gospels, calls Himself the bridegroom.
- Fasting happens when the bridegroom is gone, but celebration happens when he is present.
- Christ's first miracle is saving a wedding and making it glorious.
- Two different parables compare the kingdom of God to the wedding feast.
- Jesus states He will not celebrate Passover again until the kingdom is established.
- Communion foreshadows and looks forward to the final wedding feast.

Parable of the Wedding Feast (Matt 22:1-14)

- The kingdom of God is compared to a wedding feast.
- All are invited, but some do not respond.
- Others respond by attacking and killing the king's servants.
- The unworthy are invited and welcomed into the feast.
- One man is kicked out of the wedding for the lack of a wedding garment.
- The kingdom of God is a feast we must respond to and be prepared for.

Parable of the 10 Virgins (Matt 25:1-13)

- The kingdom of God is like virgins preparing to meet the bridegroom.
- The virgins were supposed to prepare for the coming of the bridegroom.
- The groom is delayed, and they fall asleep, but some have oil ready.
- Only those who are prepared can go into the wedding feast.
- The wedding feast is something we must prepare for in order to attend.

Takeaways

- The people of God will throw a giant party when Christ returns.
- Every marriage and wedding foreshadows Christ and the Church.
- We should be encouraged that Christ is the one who will prepare us for the final day.