



PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE

A background image showing a couple's hands clasped together. The person on the right is wearing a watch. There are several translucent bubbles of various sizes floating around the hands. The overall tone is soft and romantic.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

1. What is involved with being prepared?
2. Marriage and the responsibilities that come with it
3. We are married to Christ
4. How are we responding to the preparation of being married to Christ?

WHAT IS INVOLVED WITH BEING PREPARED FOR MARRIAGE?

- WEDDING
 - Time, place, decorations, attire, etc.
- House
 - Bills, food, drinks, mattress, family, finances, insurance, internet, etc.
- Honeymoon
 - The plans that go with that
- These are all preparations that go with a marriage
- You are about to share your life with someone else



THE MARRIAGE

- WHAT IS IMPORTANT?
 - MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
 - VOWS
 - MARRIAGE COUNSELING
 - IS GOD THE CENTER?
- THE BRIDE





PROV. 7:10

A WOMAN CAME TO MEET HIM
DRESSED LIKE A PROSTITUTE,
HAVING A HIDDEN AGENDA.

PROV. 31:10-12

WHO CAN FIND A WIFE OF NOBLE CHARACTER?
SHE IS FAR MORE PRECIOUS THAN JEWELS.
¹¹ THE HEART OF HER HUSBAND TRUSTS IN HER,
AND HE WILL NOT LACK ANYTHING GOOD.
¹² SHE REWARDS HIM WITH GOOD, NOT EVIL,
ALL THE DAYS OF HER LIFE.



THE MARRIAGE

- WHAT IS IMPORTANT?
 - MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE
 - VOWS
 - MARRIAGE COUNSELING
 - IS GOD THE CENTER?
- THE BRIDE
 - PROV. 7:10. MY BRIDE
 - PROV. 31:10-12. APPRECIATE HER BEAUTY
 - THE ATTIRE. IS SHE FOCUSED ON HER OUTWARD BEAUTY OR THE INWARD?
 - 1 PET. 3:3-4





1 PET. 3:3-4

³ DON'T LET YOUR BEAUTY CONSIST OF OUTWARD THINGS LIKE ELABORATE HAIRSTYLES AND WEARING GOLD JEWELRY OR FINE CLOTHES, ⁴ BUT RATHER WHAT IS INSIDE THE HEART - THE IMPERISHABLE QUALITY OF A GENTLE AND QUIET SPIRIT, WHICH IS OF GREAT WORTH IN GOD'S SIGHT.



THE MARRIAGE

- WHAT ABOUT THE BRIDEGROOM?





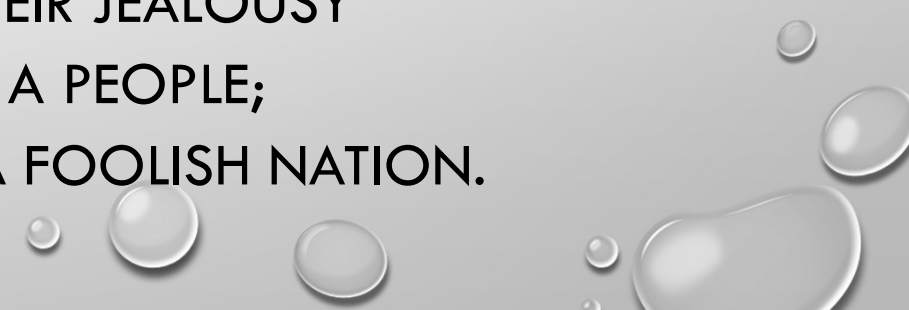
PROV. 31:8-9

SPEAK UP FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NO VOICE,
FOR THE JUSTICE OF ALL WHO ARE DISPOSSESSED.

⁹ SPEAK UP, JUDGE RIGHTEOUSLY,
AND DEFEND THE CAUSE OF THE OPPRESSED AND NEEDY.

DEUT. 32:21

THEY HAVE PROVOKED MY JEALOUSY
WITH WHAT IS NOT A GOD;
THEY HAVE ENRAGED ME WITH THEIR WORTHLESS IDOLS.
SO, I WILL PROVOKE THEIR JEALOUSY
WITH WHAT IS NOT A PEOPLE;
I WILL ENRAGE THEM WITH A FOOLISH NATION.



THE MARRIAGE

- WHAT ABOUT THE BRIDEGROOM?
 - PROV. 31. WHAT IS HE LIKE?
 - DEUT. 32:21. JEALOUSY FOR THE BRIDE
 - AM I DOING MY JOB TO PROTECT AND PROVIDE?
 - 1 PET 3:3-4
- OUR RELATIONSHIP
 - COVENANT
 - IT IS TO NO ONE ELSE
 - WE COMPLEMENT ONE ANOTHER. OUR 1ST MARRIAGE IS TO THE CHRIST



MARRIAGE TO CHRIST

- THE MORE IMPORTANT MARRIAGE





ISA. 54:5

INDEED, YOUR HUSBAND IS YOUR MAKER—
HIS NAME IS THE LORD OF ARMIES—
AND THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL IS YOUR REDEEMER;
HE IS CALLED THE GOD OF THE WHOLE EARTH.

JER. 3:20

HOWEVER, AS A WOMAN MAY BETRAY HER LOVER,
SO, YOU HAVE BETRAYED ME, HOUSE OF ISRAEL.
THIS IS THE LORD'S DECLARATION.



MARRIAGE TO CHRIST

- THE MORE IMPORTANT MARRIAGE
 - ISA. 54:5 & JER. 3:20
 - EPH. 5:25-27 & 32



EPH. 5:25-27&32

²⁵ HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES, JUST AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR HER ²⁶ TO MAKE HER HOLY, CLEANSING HER WITH THE WASHING OF WATER BY THE WORD. ²⁷ HE DID THIS TO PRESENT THE CHURCH TO HIMSELF IN SPLENDOR, WITHOUT SPOT OR WRINKLE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT, BUT HOLY AND BLAMELESS.

³² THIS MYSTERY IS PROFOUND, BUT I AM TALKING ABOUT CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.



MARRIAGE TO CHRIST

- THE MORE IMPORTANT MARRIAGE
 - ISA. 54:5 & JER. 3:20
 - EPH. 5:25-27 & 32
- THE WEDDING
 - WHEN WE COME TO WORSHIP
 - REMEMBER THE BRIDEGROOM
 - MATT. 25:1-13



MATT. 25:5-10

⁵ WHEN THE GROOM WAS DELAYED, THEY ALL BECAME DROWSY AND FELL ASLEEP. ⁶ “IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT THERE WAS A SHOUT: ‘HERE’S THE GROOM! COME OUT TO MEET HIM.’ ⁷ “THEN ALL THE VIRGINS GOT UP AND TRIMMED THEIR LAMPS. ⁸ THE FOOLISH ONES SAID TO THE WISE ONES, ‘GIVE US SOME OF YOUR OIL, BECAUSE OUR LAMPS ARE GOING OUT.’ ⁹ “THE WISE ONES ANSWERED, ‘NO, THERE WON’T BE ENOUGH FOR US AND FOR YOU. GO INSTEAD TO THOSE WHO SELL OIL, AND BUY SOME FOR YOURSELVES.’

¹⁰ **“WHEN THEY HAD GONE TO BUY SOME, THE GROOM ARRIVED, AND THOSE WHO WERE READY WENT IN WITH HIM TO THE WEDDING BANQUET, AND THE DOOR WAS SHUT.**

MARRIAGE TO CHRIST

- THE MORE IMPORTANT MARRIAGE
 - ISA. 54:5 & JER. 3:20
 - EPH. 5:25-27 & 32
- THE WEDDING
 - WHEN WE COME TO WORSHIP
 - REMEMBER THE BRIDEGROOM
 - MATT. 25:1-13
 - WHEN/WHERE?
 - WHAT IS SUPPLIED?
- THESE ARE IMPORTANT, BUT JUST LIKE WEDDINGS THAT CAN BE MORE LIKE PARTIES/FESTIVALS, WORSHIP CAN BE TURNED INTO THAT AS WELL.



MARRIAGE TO CHRIST

- WHAT'S IMPORTANT?
 - WHERE IS THE FOCUS/PRIORITY?
- THE ATTIRE
 - MATT. 22:11-13.



MATT. 22:11-13

¹¹ WHEN THE KING CAME IN TO SEE THE GUESTS, HE SAW A MAN THERE WHO WAS NOT DRESSED FOR A WEDDING. ¹² SO HE SAID TO HIM, 'FRIEND, HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE WITHOUT WEDDING CLOTHES?' THE MAN WAS SPEECHLESS. ¹³ "THEN THE KING TOLD THE ATTENDANTS, 'TIE HIM UP HAND AND FOOT, AND THROW HIM INTO THE OUTER DARKNESS, WHERE THERE WILL BE WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH.'

MARRIAGE TO CHRIST

- WHAT'S IMPORTANT?
 - WHERE IS THE FOCUS/PRIORITY?
- THE ATTIRE
 - MATT. 22:11-13.
 - HOW DO WE DRESS BEFORE OUR BRIDEGROOM?
- PURITY
 - EPH. 5:25-27 & 1 PET. 1:15-16
 - REV. 19:7-9



1 PET. 1:15-16

¹⁵ BUT AS THE ONE WHO CALLED YOU IS HOLY, YOU ALSO ARE TO BE HOLY IN ALL YOUR CONDUCT; ¹⁶ FOR IT IS WRITTEN, **BE HOLY, BECAUSE I AM HOLY.**

REV. 19:7-9

LET US BE GLAD, REJOICE, AND GIVE HIM GLORY, BECAUSE THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB HAS COME, AND HIS BRIDE HAS PREPARED HERSELF. ⁸ SHE WAS GIVEN FINE LINEN TO WEAR, BRIGHT AND PURE. FOR THE FINE LINEN REPRESENTS THE RIGHTEOUS ACTS OF THE SAINTS. ⁹ THEN HE SAID TO ME, "WRITE: BLESSED ARE THOSE INVITED TO THE MARRIAGE FEAST OF THE LAMB!" HE ALSO SAID TO ME, "THESE WORDS OF GOD ARE TRUE."

MARRIAGE TO CHRIST

- WHAT'S IMPORTANT?
 - WHERE IS THE FOCUS/PRIORITY?
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 - MATT. 22:11-13.
 - HOW DO WE DRESS BEFORE OUR BRIDEGROOM?
- PURITY
 - EPH. 5:25-27 & 1 PET. 1:15-16
 - REV. 19:7-9
 - 2 COR. 6:14-18
 - CHRIST HAS BEEN PURE FOR HIS BRIDE



2 COR. 6:14-18

¹⁴ DO NOT BE YOKED TOGETHER WITH THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE. FOR WHAT PARTNERSHIP IS THERE BETWEEN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LAWLESSNESS? OR WHAT FELLOWSHIP DOES LIGHT HAVE WITH DARKNESS? ¹⁵ WHAT AGREEMENT DOES CHRIST HAVE WITH BELIAL? OR WHAT DOES A BELIEVER HAVE IN COMMON WITH AN UNBELIEVER? ¹⁶ AND WHAT AGREEMENT DOES THE TEMPLE OF GOD HAVE WITH IDOLS? FOR WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD, AS GOD SAID: **I WILL DWELL AND WALK AMONG THEM, AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY WILL BE MY PEOPLE.** ¹⁷ **THEREFORE, COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD; DO NOT TOUCH ANY UNCLEAN THING, AND I WILL WELCOME YOU.** ¹⁸ **AND I WILL BE A FATHER TO YOU, AND YOU WILL BE SONS AND DAUGHTERS TO ME, SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY.**

MARRIAGE TO CHRIST

- COVENANT
 - THIS IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF GOD
 - GEN 2:18-24 & MATT. 19:6



GEN 2:18-24

²² THEN THE LORD GOD MADE THE RIB HE HAD TAKEN FROM THE MAN INTO A WOMAN AND BROUGHT HER TO THE MAN. ²³ AND THE MAN SAID: THIS ONE, AT LAST, IS BONE OF MY BONE AND FLESH OF MY FLESH; THIS ONE WILL BE CALLED “WOMAN,” FOR SHE WAS TAKEN FROM MAN. ²⁴ THIS IS WHY A MAN LEAVES HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BONDS WITH HIS WIFE, AND THEY BECOME ONE FLESH.

MATT. 19:6

⁶ SO THEY ARE NO LONGER TWO, BUT ONE FLESH. THEREFORE, WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER, LET NO ONE SEPARATE.”

MARRIAGE TO CHRIST

- COVENANT

- THIS IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF GOD
- GEN 2:18-24 & MATT. 19:6
- PRAISE GOD MAN AND WOMAN CAN BE ONE
- PROV. 2:17 & MAL. 2:13-16



MAL. 2:13-16

¹³ THIS IS ANOTHER THING YOU DO. YOU ARE COVERING THE LORD'S ALTAR WITH TEARS, WITH WEeping AND GROANING, BECAUSE HE NO LONGER RESPECTS YOUR OFFERINGS OR RECEIVES THEM GLADLY FROM YOUR HANDS. ¹⁴ AND YOU ASK, "WHY?" BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH THE LORD HAS BEEN A WITNESS BETWEEN YOU AND THE WIFE OF YOUR YOUTH, YOU HAVE ACTED TREACHEROUSLY AGAINST HER. SHE WAS YOUR MARRIAGE PARTNER AND YOUR WIFE BY COVENANT. ¹⁵ DIDN'T GOD MAKE THEM ONE AND GIVE THEM A PORTION OF SPIRIT? WHAT IS THE ONE SEEKING? GODLY OFFSPRING. SO WATCH YOURSELVES CAREFULLY, SO THAT NO ONE ACTS TREACHEROUSLY AGAINST THE WIFE OF HIS YOUTH. ¹⁶ **"IF HE HATES AND DIVORCES HIS WIFE," SAYS THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL, "HE COVERS HIS GARMENT WITH INJUSTICE," SAYS THE LORD OF ARMIES. THEREFORE, WATCH YOURSELVES CAREFULLY, AND DO NOT ACT TREACHEROUSLY.**

PROV. 2:17

WHO ABANDONS THE COMPANION OF HER YOUTH AND FORGETS THE COVENANT OF HER GOD;

MARRIAGE TO CHRIST

- COVENANT

- THIS IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF GOD
- GEN 2:18-24 & MATT. 19:6
- PRAISE GOD MAN AND WOMAN CAN BE ONE
- PROV. 2:17 & MAL. 2:13-16
- **DIVORCE IS NOT AN OPTION!**
- OUR COVENANT WITH CHRIST IS MORE IMPORTANT!
- ISA. 54:5 & JER.3:20
- IT'S AN EXCLUSIVE RELATIONSHIP
- IS THE WEDDING JUST TO HAVE FUN OR TO REMEMBER THE ONE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO HAVE THE WEDDING IN THE FIRST PLACE?



HOW ARE WE RESPONDING TO THE PREPARATION OF BEING MARRIED TO CHRIST?

- THE WEDDING
 - WHAT EFFORTS ARE WE PUTTING IN?
- THE MARRIAGE
 - WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?
- OUR RELATIONSHIP
 - IS IT ACTIVE? IS IT WHERE IT NEEDS TO BE?
- JESUS WANTS THAT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS BRIDE, BUT THE BRIDE MUST DECIDE IF SHE WANTS IT?



A background image showing a couple's hands clasped together in a wedding ceremony. The bride is wearing a white dress with visible buttons and the groom is wearing a light blue shirt. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with the bride's hand on top and the groom's hand on the bottom. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

WHERE WE ARE GOING

1. What is involved with being prepared?
2. Marriage and the responsibilities that come with it
3. We are married to Christ
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