

# Advent

PREPARE THE WAY

*Love*





# First century Jewish wedding customs

- *Kiddushin*: “sanctified” – Betrothal
- *Ketubah*: Marriage contract
- *Nisu'in*: “elevation” – Marriage
  - Learning to love another more than yourself
  - Take on responsibility for a family

## *Kiddushin* – betrothal

- Groom leaves father's home
- Negotiation between groom and father
- Groom pays the bride price
  - Value is known to the bride

*Ketubah* – marriage contract

- Wife can only be acquired w/her consent
- Marriage contract is signed
- Bride is “sanctified” (set apart)

*Ketubot* – the “in between” time

- Kiddushin and Nisu'in separated by a year
  - Bridegroom constructs the marital home
  - Bride prepares for the caring for a home
  - Both are looking forward...
    - Contemplating marriage
    - Relationship as husband and wife
    - What the future holds

## *Nisu'in* – wedding

- Groom returns for his bride
  - Accompanied by male escorts
  - Exact arrival time not known in advance
  - Groom's arrival announced w/a shout
- Groom takes bride home to the wedding

We are right in the middle of this story!

- Jesus left the home of His Father (John 6:38)
- Traveled to the home of His Bride (John 12:46)
- Purchased her w/His own blood (Acts 20:28)
- Returned to His Father's home (Acts 1:9-11)
- Is preparing a dwelling place (John 14:2–3)

We are in between Kiddushin and Nisu'in!



What does the next chapter hold for us?

- Jesus returns attended by an angelic escort
  - *And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen...were following him...(Rev 19:14)*
- His arrival will be heralded
  - *I heard...a...multitude...crying out...(Rev 19:1)*

And then what?

Revelation 19:6-9

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Revelation 19:6a

*Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out...*

- The church universal cries out in unison!

Revelation 19:6b

*“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God  
the Almighty reigns*”

- Hebrew word for *“praise the Lord”*
  - Only place in the NT is Rev 19
    - Grateful acknowledgement
    - Confident anticipation

Revelation 19:7

*Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and his Bride has made herself ready;*

- How are we to make ourselves ready?



Faith alone saves...faith that saves is never alone!

work out your own salvation with fear  
and trembling... (Phil 2:12b-13)

...let us not love with words or tongue but  
with actions and in truth (1 John 3:18)

- Effort is expected / essential

Revelation 19:8

*it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure* — *for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints*

- Let's unpack this theologically laden verse!

*it was granted her to clothe herself*

- God provided ability to clothe ourselves
  - *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ* (Gal 3:27)
  - *Put on then...compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience* (Col 3:12-13)

*with fine linen*

*...he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness... (Isaiah 61:10)*

*•Love, joy, peace... (Gal 5:22-23)*

*•Faith, hope and love... (1 Cor 13:13)*

*the righteous deeds of the saints*

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph 2:10)*

- God planned out our good deeds before we were born for us to join Him in them



Revelation 19:9

*And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”*

# NT parables about a marriage feast

- Parable genre distinctives
- Matt 22:1-14      Wedding Feast
- Matt 25:1-13      10 virgins
- Matt 25:14-29      Talents

# Application

- Thinking about a relationship with Jesus?
  - *For many are called, but few are chosen*
- You sense Jesus is calling you deeper?
  - *Keep watch...you do not know the day / hour*
- Serving Him for decades?
  - *You have been faithful with a few things*

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