

# The Wedding

## Garcias

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. NKJV

In this text Jesus uses a Jewish Wedding to Illustrate That Time He would Return to earth.

He is coming back as a Bridegroom for her Bride.

"Biblical Marriages"

To understand what Jesus is saying, it is helpful to know what a courtship and a wedding was like in the middle East in the days of JC.

### **First, the Groom Took the Initiative.**

The groom would leave his father's house and he would go to the house of that prospective bride and there he would court her and win her.

He would see her, choose her and then he would go and try to win her affection.

He would tell her of his love for her.  
He would talk about his plans for the future.

Then, when he had won her affection, he would negotiate with her father and pay a bridal price - usually a large sum of money.

After he paid the price for her, she was betrothed to him.

That means that she was set aside for him and she belonged to him and she was pledged to him, but the marriage was not yet consummated.

But when the bridal price was paid, the prospective bride and the groom would drink a cup of wine together after a blessing of communion was pronounced over them.

Then, after that the and some betrothal ceremonies were conducted.

That was actually the initiation of covenant.  
. . .the covenant agreement.

Then the groom would go away, back to his father's house and receive the portion of inheritance that belonged to him and he would prepare a place for himself and his bride.

Meanwhile, the bride was waiting there at her father's house.

While He Prepared a Place,  
She Prepared Herself & Her Wedding Garment  
and collected her jewels.

Isa 49:18 speaks of a bride and her wedding jewels.

The Bride was getting ready.

Now, there's the big difference between a wedding in that day and a wedding in this day.

In this day, the bride usually sets the wedding day, but not so in that day.

In that day the bridegroom and sometimes the father of the groom would set the wedding date .

The Father of the groom would prepare a huge banquet, a Marriage Supper in honor of his own dear son.

Here's the picture, the bride is waiting at her father's house.

She doesn't know exactly when the wedding is going take place.

There are friends of both families who are working together behind the scenes to make certain the bride is not going to be caught in such a terrible situation that she could not come, but it's still a surprise to her.

She is there knowing, expecting, hoping, waiting for her bridegroom to come.

Then, over the river and through the woods a torch light parade of the groom and his friends would come.

The bride is still unsuspecting.

A runner would run out little ahead just a of the processional and he would get near the bride's window and he would shout,

"Behold, the bridegroom cometh."

Can you imagine what would go through her heart?

She knew he was coming.

She was expecting him.

She had been getting ready, but now he's here.

The bridegroom has come.

The door will burst open.

The bridegroom will come in and pick her up in his strong arms and carry her away back to the father's house.

At the father's house a lavish banquet had been set and all of the friends of the family were gathered to have a celebration.

After the marriage and after the marriage supper the bride and the groom would go away by themselves for a honeymoon.

The bride would stay in the bridal chambers, in seclusion, for seven days.

She would not be seen by anyone except by her lover, her husband, her groom.

At the end of seven days, she would again be presented to a vast assembly but this time with the veil removed and everyone could see the bride and all of her beauty and again there would be great rejoicing.

### **Exposition:**

That is the cultural understanding behind the words of Jesus in the text today.

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. NKJV

This is a wonderful, beautiful, glorious analogy about Christ and His church.

Jesus is the bridegroom and the church collectively is the bride.

First, notice. . .

## **I. The Proposal**

Remember, the groom would leave his father's house and come to the house of the bride to court her and win her and ask her to be his.

That's exactly what the Lord Jesus has done.

He left the ivory palaces and streets of gold to come to this world of woe.

Because of His great redeeming love for me, and you, he came.

The groom has taken the initiative.

Why do we love him?  
Because he first loved us.

He doesn't love us because we're valuable.  
We're valuable because He loves us.

Wonder of wonders that Jesus loves me.

Jesus Saw Us and Chose Us.

John 13:18 I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen. . .NKJV

We're His chosen ones - His chosen bride.

In verse 34, He speaks of his love for us.

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you. .

Our Lord loves us with an infinite love, an everlasting love, an indescribable love.

First - the proposal.

## II. The Purchase

He set his affection on us and paid the price to purchase us, not with silver and gold, as a bridegroom would have in that day.

1Peter 1:18-20

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. NIV

Our Lord has purchased us with the silver of his tears and with the gold of his blood.

John 13 - The Institution of the Lord's Supper

John 14 - today's text took place the same night.

Remember that there was a betrothal cup out of which the bride and the groom would both drink.

It marked their covenant.

1Cor 11:25 . . . Jesus took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. .  
.NKJV

When the bride and groom drank of the cup together, they entered into covenant.

We Drink of the Cup Because We Are in Covenant with Jesus.  
. . .a Covenant Purchased by His Blood.

The Lord Jesus bought us.  
And what was the purchase price?  
His blood.

Old hymn  
The Church's one foundation is JC, her Lord,  
She is his new creation by the Spirit and the word,  
From heaven he came and sought her to His holy bride,  
With his own blood he bought her and for her life he died.

## III. The Parting

Now, we have a fuller understanding of John fourteen . . .

John 14:2 In My Father's house are many mansions. . . I go to prepare a place for you. NKJV

He's saying, Dear one, I'm going to fix up our home.

I'm going to take that part of the inheritance that belongs to me and prepare a place for you.

John 14:2. . . [I'm going] to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. NKJV

So, Jesus has departed to His Father's house.

What did the bride do while the bridegroom was gone?

While He Was Preparing a Place for Her,  
She Prepared Herself and Her Wedding Garment.

This is a time of preparation. . .

Jesus is preparing our place. . .  
We are preparing our self and our wedding garment (righteousness).

In the meantime, it is very important that we remain faithful to our Lord.

James 4:4 You adulterous people [spiritually unfaithful], don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. **NIV**

James 4:5 What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the Holy Spirit, whom God has placed within us, jealously longs for us to be faithful? **NLT**

Did you know that this world is a suitor trying to get us to turn our affections away from our bridegroom?

We must be true to the one who came and sought us, who courted us, who purchased us with his

own blood.

2Cor 11:2 (God speaking through Paul)

2 I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. For I promised you as a pure bride to one husband, Christ. 3 But I fear that somehow you will be led away from your pure and simple devotion to Christ, just as Eve was deceived by the serpent. 4 You seem to believe whatever anyone tells you. . .NLT

He's saying, "Don't be seduced away from Christ by the world."

Keep Yourself Pure for Jesus.

The Bride's Wedding Garment - White Gown

Rev 19:7b . . .the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. 8 She is permitted to wear the finest white linen." (Fine linen represents the good deeds done by the people of God.) NLT

In biblical days the bride would wear a white gown.

White is a symbol of purity and righteousness.

Bride's Dress: Inner and Outer Garment

The bride's dress consisted of an inner and outer garment.

The inner garment is that robe of righteousness that JC gives us.

The outer garment is the one we prepare

- by the way that we live our lives.

### **Problem:**

Many "Christians" are trying to put an outer garment of filth on over the pure garment of Christ's righteousness.

They will be ashamed at His coming. . .

1John 2:28 And now, children, stay with Christ. Live deeply in Christ. Then we'll be ready for him when he appears, ready to receive him with open arms, with **no cause for red-faced guilt or lame excuses when he arrives.**

29 Once you're convinced that he is right and righteous, you'll recognize that all who practice righteousness are God's true children. MSG

- Jesus has gone to prepare a place

- the bride is preparing a person and a garment.

## **IV. The Proclamation**

**1Thess 4:16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. NKJV

The shout will be, "The bridegroom cometh."

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself. . . NKJV

No ifs, ands, buts, or doubts about it.

Jesus is coming again folks.

He's coming and we're going to hear that shout . . .

Suppose this sermon were interrupted with a shout and a voice of the archangel. . .

Are you ready?

## V. The Partnership

John 14:3 . . . I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. NKJV

The exciting thing about heaven is not the mansions, not the streets of gold and the gates of pearl.

It is our union with JC.

Now, we're betrothed to Him.  
We're in covenant with Him.

But, there is coming a day when our betrothal will become a marriage.

Eph 5:31-32

31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. NKJV

Paul is talking about both: a man and his wife and about Jesus and the church.

The spiritual and psychological intimacy of the husband and wife is just a weak picture of what our marriage is going to be like to Jesus.

It's the best analogy we have.

Marriage, when it is right, is the sweetest and most sublime experience here on earth.

Think of it, we are betrothed to Jesus.

Friends, if you think the betrothal is great  
- just wait for the honeymoon.

Now, we belong to him.  
We love him.  
We sing praises to him.

But, the full consummation of our relationship with JC is still in the future.

## Invitation:

He's coming back to get us?  
He came to where we live, to seek us to woo us.  
Have you accepted Jesus' proposal?

Rev 19:5-9

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!" 6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) 9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God." NIV

## Transition