



LESSON 11

WEDDING AND VIRGINS



John 7:16; 8:31-32

16 Jesus answered, "**My teaching** is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me."

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to **my teaching**, you are really my disciples.

32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

The Parable of the Mustard Seed





Mark 4:30-32

30 Again he said, "What shall we say **the kingdom of God** is like, or what parable shall we use to describe **it**?

31 It is **like a** mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth.

32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can rest in its shade."



Mark 4:33-34

33 With **many similar parables** Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as **they could understand**.

34 He did not say anything to them **without using a parable**. **But when he was alone with his own disciples**, he explained everything.



Mark 4:11-12

11 He told them, "**The secret of the kingdom of God** has been given **to you**. But **to those** on the outside everything is said in parables

12 so that, "'they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!'"

**The kingdom of heaven
is like:**





Matthew 13:44-46

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.

When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Shepherd, Sheep, and Goats

Illustrates following, listening, and judgment, with Jesus as the Good Shepherd separating the sheep from the goats, and we are called to follow Him.



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1Pe 2:25

**Once you were like sheep who wandered away.
But now you have turned to your Shepherd,
the Guardian of your souls.**



Pearls and Treasure

Illustrates having the right focus on the true value of the Kingdom of God and the treasure in heaven.

Seed, Ground, and Fruit

Illustrates the Word of God and the importance of being a branch in Him, bearing good fruit.



Wedding and Virgins



The Parable of the Wedding Feast





Matthew 22:2-5

2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.

3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

4 "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.'

5 "But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business.



Matthew 22:6-10

6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them.

7 The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

8 "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.'

9 So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.'

10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.



Matthew 22:11-14

11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.

12 He asked, 'How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?' The man was speechless.

13 "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

14 "For many are invited, but few are chosen."

1. The King's Invitation: A king prepares a wedding banquet for his son and sends out invitations to join.

2. Refusal to Attend: The invited guests refuse to come despite the king's invitations and choose to tend to their own business.

3. Mistreated Servants: Some guests mistreat and kill the king's servants who deliver the invitations.

5. Invitation Extended to All: The king decides to invite anyone found on the streets, both good and bad, to fill the banquet hall.



5. King's Anger: The king is enraged by the mistreatment and sends his army to destroy them and their cities.

6. Unprepared Guest: A man without the proper wedding clothes is confronted by the king, who orders him to be cast out.

7. Many Invited, Few Chosen: The parable concludes with the statement that while many are invited, few are chosen.



The wedding of the Lamb





Revelation 19:6-7

6 Then I heard the noise of a huge crowd. It sounded like the roar of rushing waters and like loud thunder. The people were shouting, "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

7 Let us be joyful and glad! Let us give him glory! **It is time for the Lamb's wedding. His bride has made herself ready.**



Revelation 19:8-9

8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." **(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)**

9 Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"

Being born again is just the beginning...

That is the invitation to the wedding we receive, and now a sanctification process begins where we make ourselves ready as the Holy Spirit works in us. We are putting off the old clothes (old man) and putting on the new fine linen (new man).

This is NOT to get invited, but to avoid being thrown out, as we read.

If the church could just understand this one part, everything would change...



Have you made yourself ready?



**Has your church made herself
ready?**



It is not good for man to be alone. God put Adam to **sleep**, and from **his side**, He **created his wife**, Eve. In **marriage**, those two (man and woman) are **joined together** as one flesh.

God also put Christ (the last Adam) to **sleep** (on the cross), and from **His side** (blood and water), He **created His wife** (the Church). One day, we **will be joined together** at the great wedding feast."



Wives and Husbands





Ephesians 5:22-25

22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her**



Ephesians 5:26-28

26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

27 and to present her to himself as a glorious church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (the church) to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.



Baptism is also a preparation for the wedding, making us ready for that day. The purification is for the grand wedding with the King





2 Corinthians 11:2-3

"I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. **I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.** But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and **pure devotion to Christ.**"

For this to return to the church, we need as the early church to have a true fear of God and a clear focus on the Kingdom of God, looking forward to the day of the Lord, so that we may be a pure, spotless virgin on that great wedding day.





Ephesians 1:13-14

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him **with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,**

14 who is a **deposit guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Promise of Commitment: Just as an engagement ring symbolizes a commitment between two people and a promise of marriage, **the Holy Spirit** serves as a promise from God, acting as our engagement ring.

Seal of Belonging: An engagement ring signifies that someone belongs to another. Similarly, **the Holy Spirit** marks our belonging to Christ, making us His engaged ones, soon to be married.



Preparation for the Wedding: An engagement is a period during which the couple prepares for their wedding. In the same way, **the Holy Spirit** prepares us for our ultimate union with Christ, the great wedding, and helps us get ready by sanctifying us on our spiritual journey for that day.



Time for a break!



Ancient Jewish tradition



1 Betrothal Ceremony: In ancient Jewish custom, when a man wished to marry a woman, he would present her with a **cup of wine**. By accepting the wine, the woman accepted the marriage proposal. This act represented her consent to the covenant of marriage, symbolizing her commitment to him.



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Luk 22:17-18

After Jesus took the cup, he gave thanks. He said, "**Take this cup** and share it among yourselves.

I tell you, I will not drink wine with you again **until God's kingdom comes.**"



2. Preparation of a Place: After the betrothal, the groom would leave to **prepare a home** for his bride. This period of separation could last up to a year. During this time, the groom would build a house or prepare a place in his father's house for the couple to live together.



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John 14:2-3

"There are many rooms in my Father's house. If this were not true, I would have told you. I am going there to **prepare a place for you.**

If I go and do that, I will come back. And **I will take you to be with me.** Then you will also be where I am.



3. Return for the Bride: Once the groom had prepared the home, he would return to gather his bride. This would often happen unexpectedly, much like a surprise visit. **The bride would need to be ready**, as the timing of the groom's return was unknown.



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Mat 25:13 "So **keep watch**. You do not know the day or the hour that **the groom will come**.





Philippians 1:9-11

9 And **this is my prayer:** that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be **pure and blameless for the day of Christ,**

11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Are you engaged with Christ?

Have you drunk from the cup He gave you and said yes to Him?

Are you a pure virgin, devoted to Him, betrothed and ready for the day He returns to take you to be with Him forever?

Do you keep watch, or have you fallen asleep?





Matthew 22:14

"For many are invited, but few are chosen."

