

Woman in the Mirror

Lesson #3: Who she will become

I. Let me tell you a story...about a Jewish bride

A. Jewish weddings

1. Introduction: Boys married at 18 years of age – girls married when they reached puberty (12-13 years of age).
2. The Betrothal
 - a. Intense bargaining between the father of the bride and the father of the groom (or the groom's "best man).
 - b. Bride Price: Very expensive (equivalent of the cost of building a home). It's paid up front.
 - c. Ceremony of legal commitment (See Genesis 24:60)
 - d. The contract (Ketubah) was sealed by drinking the cup of wine together. The groom would promise to not drink "of this cup again" until they were reunited at the Feast (Luke 22:17-18)
 - e. "She is my wife and I her husband from today and forever." Only recently was a rabbi required to be a wedding ceremony.
3. The Preparation
 - a. The groom:
 - 1) Went home to add a room onto his father's house. His father would indicate that the preparations were completed.
 - 2) He would prepare his clothing (Isaiah 61:10)
 - b. The bride prepared herself
 - 1) Her hair was braided with precious stones (perhaps borrowed)
 - 2) Her gown was interwoven (Psalm 45:13-15)
 - 3) The dressing up was "unforgettable" (Jeremiah 2:32)
4. The Procession
 - a. The groom would set out from his home with a "friend of the groom" (John 3:29). He would act as the Master of Ceremony.
 - b. The bride would be accompanied by her friends.

- c. The road way would be lit by wedding guests (Matthew 25:1-13). There would be music, singing and dancing along the way (Jeremiah 16:9 and Song of Solomon 6:13). The groom's friends would sing of his bravery. The women would sing of her beauty.
 - d. Those celebrating will pour oil, wine and perfume along the way. They will scatter nuts and roasted grain as precursors to happiness for the couple.
5. The Wedding Feast
- a. The bride and groom enter under a special canopy (Chuppah). It has open sides as an indication of their commitment to hospitality.
 - b. The festivities would last up to a week (Judges 14:12). There was eating and drinking (Song of Solomon 2:4 and John 2:6-10).
 - c. The guests lingered to give witness that the marriage was consummated (Genesis 29:22-23, Deuteronomy 22:13-21).
 - d. In wealthy homes, the guests might be provided with "wedding clothes" (Matthew 22:12)

II. The Woman in the Mirror: She is (part of) the bride of Christ

A. Introduction:

1. The Betrothal
 - a. 2 Corinthians 11:2 "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."
 - b. Ephesians 5:25-29 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing[a] her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant 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. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church..."
2. The Preparation
 - a. John 14:3-4 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."
 - b. Revelation 19:7-8 "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. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear."

3. The Procession
 - a. Matthew 25:1-13
4. The Wedding Feast
 - a. Revelation 19:9 "Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God."
 - b. Matthew 25:10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut."
5. Their life together
 - a. By definition, the bride is:
 - 1) "Beautiful"
 - a) Attractive inside and out
 - b) Song of Solomon 2:10
 - c) In Christ, there is no flaw! (Song of Solomon 4:7, Ephesians 5:25-27)
 - 2) "Desirable"
 - a) "I belong to my beloved and his desire is for me." (Song of Solomon 7:10)
 - 3) "Not rejected" (See Hosea 1:2-3, 3:1-3)
 - a) "Return, faithless people declares the Lord, for I am your husband. I will choose you..." (Jeremiah 3:14)
 - 4) "Worthy" (in Christ!)
 - a) "It was granted her to clothe herself with fine linens, bright and pure..."(Revelation 19:7-9)
 - 5) "Embraced" – intimacy follows
 - a) "All glorious is the princess within her chamber. Her gown is interwoven with gold, in embroidered garments she is led to the king." (Psalm 45:13-14)

III. The Portrait of the Woman in the Mirror: The adorned bride of Christ