

Matthew 25:1-13

What We Can Learn from A Jewish Wedding

(adapted from “Behold, The Bridegroom Comes! by Renald Showers)

The Scripture uses imagery from wedding customs, where Jesus is the Bridegroom, The Church collectively is the Bride, and Individual believers are the invited guests (Sometimes the Jewish people are the ones told to stay awake (Luke 12:36)). The customs include:

1. Intention:
 - a. The bridegroom seeks for a wife
 - b. Jesus came ‘to seek’ his Church (Luke 19:10)
2. Brideprice A:
 - a. The bridegroom arranges with her father to pay a “brideprice”
 - b. Before we come to faith, we are children of the devil (John 8:44) and Jesus pays with his life to transfer us to God’s family
3. Brideprice B:
 - a. This guarantees that she will keep herself for him and he will keep his word to marry her
 - b. Jesus paid a price for the right to call us his own and to oblige us to him (1 Corinthians 6:20 and 7:23) proving his commitment to us (John 10:28, Romans 8:38-39)
4. Covenant (Betrothal):
 - a. The bridegroom signs a covenant (as binding as the marriage covenant itself, breakable only by divorce – see Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:4-5) promising to marry his bride
 - b. Jesus promised to us to take us to live with him (John 6:39 [‘it’ - the Church collectively] and 40 [‘him’ – individual believers], 10:16)
5. The Preparation of the New Home:
 - a. The bridegroom returns to his father’s house to prepare living quarters in his father’s house
 - b. So Jesus promises us in John 14:2
6. “Behold, the Bridegroom comes!”:
 - a. When all is ready, the bridegroom comes to ‘snatch away’ his bride to live in their new home (The Rapture – 1 Corinthians 15:50-54 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17), accompanied by his escorts
 - b. The bride knows the bridegroom is coming but does not know exactly when, so his arrival is announced with loud shouts (1 Thessalonians 4:16) and accompanied by angels
7. The Consummation:
 - a. The couple are escorted to the bridal chamber, to consummate the marriage
 - b. So the Church is promised union with Christ for eternity (John 17:21, 23)
8. The Feast:
 - a. Following the consummation of the marriage, the gathered guests feast and make merry for seven days.
 - b. While the world experiences the wrath of man and God for the Seven Years of Sorrow, believers will celebrate with the angels in heaven ‘the marriage feast’ prepared for us
9. The Public Unveiling:
 - a. After the week of feasting the bride appears unveiled in public with her husband.
 - b. The Church appears with Jesus at His Coming (Revelation 19:1-16)