

The Wedding Mystery

ICEBREAKER: Who was the first person you can remember having a crush on as a child?

Aim of Discussion: understand more about Ancient Jewish Wedding traditions and how it teaches us unique lessons about God's covenant love for His people.

Introduction:

- The Ancient Jewish Wedding prophetically points to the coming of Christ and the great celebration of the marriage supper of the Lamb.
- In the unfolding of the Ancient Jewish Wedding there are three main players.

The Father: This is reflected in God the Father

The Groom: This is reflected in the person of Jesus

The Bride: This is reflected in the church; the Bride of Christ

Ketubah/Betrothal – The Wedding Contract

- When a young man wanted to marry a young woman, he would prepare a covenant which he would present to the young woman and her father in the young woman's home.
- The covenant itself would present the groom's willingness to provide for and protect the young woman and it would present the price he was willing to pay for her.

The Four Cups

- When Jesus took the four cups during the Passover meal with the disciples, he declares his promises as the Bridegroom to his Bride (His church) according to Exodus 6:6-7
 - **The Cup of Sanctification**
“I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.”
 - **The Cup of Praise**
“I will take you as My people.”
 - **The Cup of Redemption**
“I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.”
 - **The Cup of Acceptance**
“I will take you as my people and I will be your God.”
- If the bride price was acceptable to the father of the bride, meaning that the price was enough for her value, the young man would pour a glass of wine for the bride and if she willingly drank it, it would indicate her acceptance of the proposal.
- Jesus poured a cup of wine for the Bride to drink to seal the marriage contract in the same way He poured wine for His disciples to drink.
- Under the Torah, if the woman drinks the wine but flirts with other idols (in our life), she could be put to death for adultery.
- That is why Paul told the Corinthians church about the attitude we should have when taking communion. (1 Cor 11:27 – 30 – important to read the verses together as a group)

- In Jewish culture, the father of the groom gives a gift (mohar) that's why in John 3:16, Jesus is the gift to us!
- The bridegroom will then go back to his father's house and prepare the house for his wife. John 14:1-3 verse 3
- Jesus has ascended to heaven; right now, we are in between the betrothal and marriage ceremony - Jesus is preparing for his return.
- Matthew 24:36 the father gives the go ahead for the wedding to commence.

It is finished

- 'it is finished' and he breathed his last. Tetelestai (in Greek) means I have successfully completed the work I came to do. The debt is paid in full.
- When he sipped the sour wine, Jesus said 'kalah' (in Hebrew). It is complete, it is finished. The word has a double meaning "it is finished, my bride!"
- He didn't just die for the sins of this world, he died for a relationship, a marriage with his people. Christianity is not a religion, it is the highest form of relationship, a marriage covenant.
- The curtain in the temple symbolised the way to eternal life - relationship with the Father is no longer restricted.
- "Jesus said I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the father except through me."

QUESTION:

- Share one thing you have learnt from this study and how will you apply it in your life?
- What attitude do you have towards communion? After reading 1 Cor 11:27 – 30 and understanding the significant about communion and our relationship with Jesus, what will you change?
- How is your relationship with Jesus today? Knowing His commitment and devotions to us, does it change the way you approach Him and build relationship with Him?

Things you can do:

1. Take communion together as a group and pray this prayer together:

Dear Jesus, you died on the cross for me. I honour, love and worship you. I have taken time to reflect on my life, my short comings, my sin, my disobedience, my rebellion to you. I offer each situation to you because I do not want to be that person anymore. Forgive me when I did things to hurt you. Come Holy Spirit to purify my heart, mind, and soul. Please purify me and restore me to a right relationship with you. Heal my heart from the brokenness so your love remains. Heal me from wrong thinking and do not allow negative thoughts to take root. Please use me to be Your voice, hands, and feet. I love you Jesus, Amen.

2. Read Song of Songs to understand the love between the Bridegroom and the Bride.