

4. Jesus – The Ultimate Bridegroom

Summer MNM 2014: Christ Prefigured in the OT

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NOTES:

I. Introduction

1. Scholars use the term “_____” to refer to narrative scenes that occur multiple times.
2. **Robert Alter:** “The type-scene is not merely a way of formally recognizing a particular kind of narrative moment; it is also a means of attaching that moment to a larger pattern of historical and _____ meaning.” (60).

II. Old Testament Betrothal Stories

A. _____ & Rebekah (Genesis 24)

B. *Features of the betrothal story*

1. _____: The protagonist (leading character of the story) or a representative travels to a foreign country.
2. _____: He encounters a woman at a well.
3. _____: Either the man or woman draws water from the well.
4. _____: The girl rushes home to bring news of the stranger’s arrival (look for words like “run” or “hurry”).
5. _____: The stranger is invited to the girl’s home and shown hospitality (often a meal accompanies the scene).
6. _____: A betrothal and marriage immediately follows.

C. _____ & Rachel (Genesis 29:1-20)

D. _____ & Zipporah (Exodus 2:15-22)

E. _____ & Boaz (Ruth 1-4)

III. Jesus and the _____ Woman

A. *Betrothal Features (John 4)*

1. _____: Jesus, the protagonist, is on a journey from Judea to Galilee and instead of skirting Samaria, as most Jews would do, he determines to pass through this foreign land. He is on a mission.
2. _____: He sits down by a well being tired from his journey and a woman of Samaria comes to the well to draw water.

- 3. _____: Jesus asks for a drink and then offers the woman a superior drink.
- 4. _____: After a short conversation, the woman leaves Jesus, goes into the city and tells the men what has just happened.
- 5. _____: The Samaritans come out and invite Jesus and his disciples to stay with them, showing them hospitality. For two days, the city hosts Jesus and his disciples.
- 6. _____: Everything in the story is shouting “betrothal”. It all leads up to a betrothal and yet none apparently follows. Instead, what is offered to the woman at the well is also offered to the whole city. What is going on?

B. Context (John 3:22-36)

- 1. Is Jesus self-consciously portraying himself as a bridegroom and is John, the author, seeking to highlight this? I believe that a look at the paragraph immediately preceding the story of Jesus and the woman at the well will answer this question plainly.
- 2. **Question:** John, what do you think about your _____? Jesus is outperforming you. He is more popular than you. Everyone is going to him (John 3:26).
- 3. **Answer:** It’s the _____ who gets the bride, not the best man. Therefore it is normal that the people should flock to Jesus because he is the groom. I, John the Baptist, am the _____ or best man. It is my joy to bear witness to the union between bride and groom (John 3:29).
- 4. **Conclusion:** So just before a story that includes almost every feature of an OT betrothal story, John the Baptist clearly tells us that the reason people are flocking to Jesus is because he is the _____ receiving his bride.
- 5. On what basis can Jesus claim to be the husband of his people? On the basis of the _____!

IV. God as Husband in Jeremiah

A. The Exodus & Sinai: The _____ & _____

- 1. **Jeremiah 2:1-3** The exodus out of Egypt is described as God drawing Israel, his bride, out into the wilderness and bringing her to Mt. Sinai where she enters into a marriage covenant with him (Ezek 16:8).

B. Idolatry: Israel’s _____

1. **Jeremiah 2:13-19** Almost as soon as they become husband and wife, Israel acts unfaithfully. This unfaithfulness becomes a pattern from which this bride cannot break free.

a) Note how _____ imagery is closely connected to the marriage relationship.

b) Water is basic to life and thus water speaks of _____. To have water is to have your most basic _____ met. To have our thirst quenched is to be refreshed, satisfied, fulfilled at the most basic level.

2. **Jeremiah 2:31-32**

C. *The exile: Israel's _____*

1. **Jeremiah 3:6-8** God divorces his wife because of her continual acts of adultery. That is quite astonishing.

D. *Call for Israel to return to her faithful husband*

1. **Jeremiah 3:14** God has not _____ on his wife. Even though he has sent her away, he will come after her and bring her back to himself.

V. Significance and Application

A. *Jesus is the ultimate _____ who has travelled into a _____ country to secure for himself a bride.*

1. Jesus is identifying himself as the _____ of the OT who has come to renew a marriage covenant with his people. The God who has written a certificate of divorce is now calling his people back to himself.

B. *We are not _____ brides of Christ; We are _____ the bride of Christ.*

C. *Jesus as bridegroom reminds us of the _____ of personal relationship God is seeking with his people as well as the _____ of betrayal.*

1. Jesus commits himself exclusively to his bride, the church. The church commits herself exclusively to Christ, her husband.

2. Scripture makes it clear that _____ is a spiritual act of adultery in God's eyes. How can we define idolatry?

a) **Martin Luther:** “Whatever your heart clings to and relies upon, that is your God;”

b) **Tim Keller:** An idol is something you rely on instead of God for your salvation.

c) **Brian Rosner:** “A god is that which one loves, trusts and serves above all else.”

3. Is Jesus Christ the one we love, trust, and serve above all else?

D. *The marriage covenant relationship provides the _____ proper context in which human life can _____.*

1. Only an exclusive _____ commitment to love another person can lay a foundation which makes fulfilling, satisfying, and life-give intimacy possible.

a) **Edmund Clowney:** “It is not that God looks down from heaven to discern some human relationship that might prove to be a fitting symbol of His love. The reality is the other way around. When God formed Eve from the body of Adam, he was providing the means by which we might be prepared to understand the joy of an exclusive love. Only in that way could we be prepared to grasp something of the burning intensity of the divine love: love that bears no rival, because God is a personal God, and His love for His people is personal” (26).

2. **Do we have any _____ to Jesus Christ in our life?** Jesus Christ is a jealous husband and will not tolerate any rivals.

3. **Do we understand the _____ of an exclusive love?**