

Cornerstone Christian Family Church

Cell Group Notes

16 April 2015

“My Groom Cometh”

Welcome: Welcome all members warmly to the meeting. Make all feel at home and welcomed.

Icebreaker:

If you could have one prayer answered right now, What would it be?

Allow interaction, after interaction encourage group that it is possible for that prayer to be answered NOW, Mark 9:23 says “.. all things are possible to Him who believes”

Take a moment to pray with group over the points raised.

Interaction Point1

On Sunday we looked at the symbolism of the Jewish wedding to our Christian Walk; What can you remember from the teaching or what stood out for you. (allow group to interact, just fill in the blanks as they share and add in your revelations from the teaching.)

The Jewish Wedding Ceremony

- 1) The Selection of the bride – The bride is chosen by the Father of the Groom. The Groom has no say in the matter. Gen 24 is an example of how Isaac’s bride was chosen. It is a type of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit at work. Likewise our father in heaven has chosen us as the bride of Christ and we also have accepted Jesus without seeing Him (faith) – 1 Pet 1:8
- 2) Once the bride is selected, the bride’s price must be agreed upon. Jesus paid the highest price for His bride, HE paid with His life. 1 Pet 1:18-19
- 3) Once the bride’s price is settled, the groom is sent to the bride for the betrothal ceremony:
 - a. a written document is drawn up known as the “Ketubah” (an agreement that outlines the responsibilities of the groom to the bride) Our Ketubah is the bible, our agreement of blessings and cover from our groom)
 - b. The bride will then say “I DO” if she agrees with everything. We get this opportunity at Salvation, when we say “I do” to Jesus.
 - c. The betrothal is completed when the groom gives a gift to the bride and she accepts it. – Jesus gave the bride (church), the precious gift of the Holy Spirit. We complete the betrothal process when we accept the gift.
 - d. The bridal couple then partake in the “cup of the covenant” – they share a cup of wine from one cup, the groom first drinks and then the bride symbolising a sealing of their union. Jesus introduced this in Luke 22:20.
- 4) The next stage in this process is then called the “mikvah”, this is a ritual cleansing that symbolises the doing away of the old way of life and the beginning of a new way of life. This is symbolic of our baptism.
- 5) The groom then departs to return to His father’s house to prepare the bridal chamber for his bride. HE leaves with the words, **“I go to prepare a place for you, but I will return again unto you”** This ties in with the ascension of Jesus back to the Father and HIS words in John 14:1-3
- 6) The groom then proceeds to prepare the bridal chamber and the bride is then left alone for an intense preparation period. It is also a time of longing after the groom and a sign of this; is a lit lamp in the window of the bride. Her responsibility would be to trim and keep the lamp. We are tasked to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. Our light must shine. If our lamps are put off and we are in darkness we may accept a “false” groom

- 7) The groom can only leave to fetch His bride when the father is happy with the preparations and then sends out the son. The son has no idea of when the father will give this instruction. This ties up with Jesus words in Mark 13:32-37
- 8) The groom will customary come in the middle of the night and abduct his bride to the bridal chamber. 1 Thes 4:16-17
- 9) The will spend seven days in the bridal chamber – this corresponds with what Daniels says in Daniel 9:24-27 that we will spend seven years in heaven with the Messiah while the earth is in tribulation.
- 10) After the seven days, there is a marriage supper hosted by the father. Rev 19:7-10

And then all will be living happily ever after..... well those who choose to say I do and continue to wait on the groom.

This is our Christian Walk with the Lord, we are in the time of waiting for the Groom, let us wait and prepare ourselves for His coming. The intention was never that we forget about the groom but that we wait with a longing for Him.

This is an outline of the process, please add to this and teach.

Also encourage the group to find where they are and then help them in the preparation phase (believers class, baptism, etc)

Announcements:

- 1) Men & Women's Fellowship this Saturday at 14h00