

9.10.17

Sent: A Study of John

Reminders

- **Money Matters-** Join us for our Money Matter's class Friday night October 6 and Saturday morning October 7. For just \$10 per person (inexpensive date night) you will be fed, have childcare if needed, and have a chance to dig into what God's word has to say about the money He has entrusted to our care. You can register on The City and to learn more information.
- **Praying for Exodus**
As a redeemed people, we are called to pray. As those who worship and serve Him in the world, we must pray. Praying for Exodus will help us pray through 10 important areas for Exodus Church. Each month, we will post the guiding prayer, prayer requests and resources to encourage our prayer. Please join us in praying to a God who hears our growing and remembers his covenant (Exodus 2). We are trusting Him to do great things.

Trust God's Heart (September Prayer)

Three Things to Pray for...

1. To provide for what we need.
2. To hear our prayers and heal our hearts, relationships and communities
3. To know both what is best and when is best.

If you would like to learn more about the Praying for Exodus initiative and how to better understand why we do this, we encourage you to check out the blog for past resources.

Remember

Spend some time catching up.

Who has a crazy wedding story? Yours or someone else's?

Read the passage of Scripture from the sermon (John 2:1-12).

- What stands out to you?
- What stood out to you from the sermon? What encouraged you? What challenged you?

How do we see John 20:30-31 happening in John 2:1-12 (specifically v. 11)?

Deepen

How do we see Jesus' humanity in this passage? His deity?

Talk about Jewish Weddings (use these notes from the sermon)

- **The Arrangement**
 - Go to his father to obtain permission to marry a woman.
- **The Betrothal**
 - The betrothal was binding and could only be undone by a divorce with proper grounds, such as the bride being found not to be a virgin, (see Joseph and Mary - Matt 1 v18-19) The young man prepared a marriage contract (or covenant) which he presented to the intended bride and her father. Included in this was the " Bride Price ", which was appropriate in that society to compensate the young woman's parents for the cost of raising her, as well as being an expression of his love for her.
- **Acceptance**
 - To see if the proposal was accepted, the young man would pour a cup of wine for his beloved and wait to see if she drank it. This cup represents a blood covenant. If she drank the cup she would have

accepted the proposal and they would be betrothed. The young man would then give gifts to his beloved, and then take his leave. The young woman would have to wait for him to return and collect her.

- **The wedding chamber and the *Chuppah***

- Before leaving the young man would announce, " I am going to prepare a place for you ", and "I will return for you when it is ready". The usual practice was for the young man to return to his father's house and build a honeymoon room there. He had 1 year to complete this room.
- He was not allowed to skimp on the work and had to get his father's approval before he could consider it ready for his bride. If asked the date of his wedding he would have to reply, "Only my father knows."
- Meanwhile the bride would be making herself ready so that she would be pure and beautiful for her bridegroom. During this time she would wear a veil when she went, out to show she was spoken for (she has been bought with a price)

- **The Wedding**

- When the wedding chamber was ready the bridegroom could collect his bride. He could do this at any time so the bride would make special arrangements. It was the custom for a bride to keep a lamp, her veil and her other things beside her bed. Her bridesmaids were also waiting and had to have oil ready for their lamps.
- When the groom and his friends got close to the bride's house they would give a shout and blow a *shofar* to let her know to be ready.
- When the wedding party arrived at father's house the newlyweds went into the wedding chamber to consummate the marriage.
- Then all the friends really started celebrating for the seven days that the couple were honeymooning. When the couple emerged there would be much congratulation and the Marriage Supper could begin.

- **All of the provision for this marriage supper was the responsibility of the groom.**

What strikes you about these customs?

How does this help us understand Jesus as our Bridegroom? Discuss the following...(refer back to notes for each section)

- The Arrangement
- The Betrothal
 - Read Ephesians 5:25-27
- The wedding chamber
 - Read John 14:1-3
 - Read Matthew 24:36
- The Waiting
 - Read John 14:3
- The Wedding
 - Read Revelation 19:6-9

How does that change the way you think about Jesus? Eternity as an eternal wedding feast?

We talked about how Jesus provided to cover the shame and potential legal trouble of the groom who couldn't meet the requirements placed on him.

- How does that speak to Jesus' work for us?
- What verses would you point to?
- Are you trusting in Jesus' provision for you or trying to provide your own?

Transform

We see in this passage that Jesus displays his glory in the inability or weakness of a groom to provide wine for his wedding. Most often, Jesus' glory is displayed in our weakness.

- How does your heart resonate with that?
- What sins/idols does that expose in you?

Discuss 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

- How does your heart respond to weakness?
- What is hard about learning to boast in our weaknesses?

Spend time praying these things for each other.