

•Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

Revelation 19:7

•The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. Revelation 22:17

•The story of the prince and his peasant bride.-A more intriguing romance never occurred. His attraction to her is baffling. He, the stately prince. She, the common peasant. Not ugly, but she can be. And often is. She tends to complain and self loathe, even can be cranky. Not the kind of person you'd want to live with. **But according to the prince, she is the one he can't live without.** So he proposed to her. On the dusty floor of her peasant's cottage, he knelt, took her hand, and asked her to be his bride.

•"I'll return for you soon," he promised."I will be waiting," she pledged. No one thought it odd that the prince would leave. He is, after all the son of the King. What's odd is not his departure, but her behavior during his absence.

•**She forgets she's engaged!** You'd think the wedding would be ever on her mind, but it isn't. You'd think the day would be on the tip of her tongue. But it's not. Some of her friends have never heard her speak of the Prince or the event. Days pass even weeks and his return isn't mentioned. Why, there have been times when she has been seen talking with other men. Flirting. Whispering. **In the bright of day.** Dare we wonder about her activities in the dark of night? Is she rebellious? Maybe. But mostly, she is just forgetful. She keeps forgetting that she is engaged.

The Picture of Marriage is found throughout Scripture.

•This will be the image the God uses to express the Love that Christ has for His Church. That's You!

• **Here is a Summary of the entire Bible- LOVE**

•The Arrangement

- The first stage involves the groom leaving his father's home and traveling to the bride's home. ***For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. John 6:38***
- The groom pays **A Bride Price**, and its value must be known to the bride. -The arrangement was sealed with blood. ***You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price.1 Cor. 6:19-20***
- **The more expensive something is the bigger the payment required.**
- The wife can only be acquired with her consent. From that moment on the bride is sanctified, or set apart, exclusively for her bridegroom. ***Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. Eph 5:25-27***
- The Preparation.
- What does the Bridegroom do? Prepares a place for his bride: ***"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come again, and will receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3).***
- During the preparation or betrothal stage, what security does the bride have that the Bridegroom will come to fetch her?
- 14 The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance, which is applied toward our redemption as God's own people, resulting in the honor of God's glory. Ephesians 1:14 11-14***
- The world around ought to be able to look at the church and see a foreshadowing what heaven will be like.