

THE MIRACLE OF MARRIAGE

Gen 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Marriage was first conceived in the mind of God. It was his idea! Everything else God created, he created out of nothing with his word: the stars and moon, the land and animals, to name a few. In regard to all living creatures, God made males and females separately, except for humans. ***This is the first unique miracle that God performed.***

Gen 2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

Gen 2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Gen 2:23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Isn't it interesting that Adam's eyes were shut when his wife was being prepared for him? Had his eyes been open, perhaps he would seek beauty alone and frustrate God's new creation. Remember that Adam later blamed God, 'the woman whom thou gavest to be with me' (Gen 3:12). I think right here there is a very important lesson for men: men are often misled by their eyes in selecting a wife. God wants the men to trust in him – let God prepare your future wife. The rib represents closeness, support and protection – without it, the heart and internal organs will be exposed to constant danger. Every breath a man takes, the rib expands and contracts – the rib is as close to a man as his breath.

But the main point I wish to highlight is this: just as the woman is the only being who can claim to have been drawn out of the man, the church which has put on the flesh of the heavenly man, Jesus Christ, is the only legitimate spiritual bride of Jesus. The rib that God took out of the man was clothed with the flesh of the man. This is a beautiful picture of what happened to the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. Like Adam, the Lord was put to sleep so to speak at Golgotha. Adam awoke together with his wife, Eve. Something new also happened when the Lord Jesus' body arose from the grave. The saints of the Old Testament arose with him, as Isaiah says:

Isaiah 26:19 Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

Christ has arisen with his bride, his wife, the church. Through baptism in Jesus name, we put on his flesh. The church is as close to Jesus as his breath – his rib.

Eph 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Eph 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Think about it! Most of the phenomena and themes we are used to on earth will be absent in heaven. ***In heaven, there will be no births; no teenage years; no tears or sorrow; no hunger; no deaths. However, there will be a marriage!*** Hallelujah! It always puzzles me that many unbelieving couples who live together for years and have children, one day wish to have an official wedding ceremony with a wedding gown, cake, guests and the whole shebang, as they say. Why is this? I am convinced that this is because God has put the eternal, heavenly marriage between Christ and the church in every person's heart – especially the woman. This goes back to the beginning. The woman's origin is in the man, and so it makes sense that even small girls (e.g. Rebecca) talk about the day of their wedding.

John 2:1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

John 2:2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

The best decision the unnamed couple in Cana made was to invite Jesus to their wedding. I have not read about Jesus attending a birth or a funeral; but he came with all his disciples to a wedding. So much preparation goes into a wedding. Especially in the old days, entire villages would be involved. Even now, I noticed that the entire world seemed to be involved in the wedding of Meghan Markle and Prince Harry. We all still seem to love the idea of a good wedding. However, one thing is needful; invite Jesus and your wedding is secure. The God who first invented the idea of a marriage was in this wedding. He was the one who made Adam sleep and drew out Eve from his rib. What new miracle was he about to perform in this wedding?

John 2:3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

All marriages will experience some lack at some time. This marriage in Cana lacked wine. In those days, it appears to be a catastrophe if the wedding ran out of grape juice. Today, we

might say the wedding cake has replaced the wine – please double check that the cake is here. But, seriously, all marriages will experience a lack – finances, even children, trust, love, even vision – a marriage without a vision/purpose can be a problem. The mistake they made in Cana is to go to Mary. I exhort the couple in this marriage to go directly to Jesus when your marriage will suffer a lack – so many couples get frustrated because they approach the wrong people to solve their problems. Fortunately, Mary knew where to go – Jesus. The same God who saw a lack in the beginning – it is not good for the man to be alone – already knew what to do. He performed his first marriage on earth in a wedding. We are hence in the right place today; every marriage is a descendant of the marriage in Eden and Cana. There is a direct and blessed link between Eden, Cana and Stockholm because the same Jesus is here. Let us pray he will perform a miracle in their lives and ours before we leave today.

John 2:8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

The same scene at Eden was being repeated in a different way in Cana. God drew the woman out from the rib of the man and in Cana he now drew wine out of the water. From water came something amazing – wine. I wonder if this is why we have the saying, ‘My better half?’ I am sorry men - something better came out of the man – woman. In doing this miracle, Jesus was confirming the Scripture:

Proverbs 18:22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

There are Christians who do not marry because the responsibilities of marriage are too daunting for them. They are afraid of rejection, failure etc. I want you to remember the promise of God in Proverbs 18:22. Just trust in Jesus; my entire message today is to demonstrate to you that God loves marriage and he will perform miracles to bless your marriage – you will obtain favor of the Lord.

John 2:10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

The Governor said that the bridegroom had kept the good wine until the end. Jesus will make your marriage fruitful and a blessing until the end – the years will not wear out and destroy it, but the word of Jesus will renew it. Let us pray that many people will over the years taste of the wine of your marriage and compliment and bless you. Let Jesus always supply your marriage with the wine of every spiritual blessing!