Our Great Wedding (Eph. 5:22-33)

1. **Jesus Leads His bride.** *“head of the church”* (Eph. 5:23)

***Matt. 10:6*** – Before coming to Christ, we were lost.

***Matt. 15:14*** – Before coming to Christ, we were blind.

***Eph. 2:12*** – Being blind and lost left us without hope.

***Matt. 15:14; Rom. 2:19*** – Those leading us may be clueless about which way to go.

***John 10:12; Matt. 24:11*** – Those leading us may have little concern for us.

***Gen. 3:6, 7*** – Our ancestors caused our sad condition.

***Matt. 24:23-26; 1 Peter 5:8*** – Being blind and lost makes us easy prey for the enemy.

***Matt. 12:22*** – Satan can cause physical blindness.

***Rev. 3:17*** – Those who think they can see may be blind.

***Luke 15:8*** – The lost are unaware someone is looking for them.

***2 Cor. 4:4*** – Satan works to maintain our spiritual blindness.

***Luke 15:13; Isaiah 53:6; Ps. 139:7-12*** – Some people are willfully lost.

***John 9:40, 41*** – The term “blind” is offensive.

***Jer. 50:6*** – Those who don’t seek direction face destruction.

***Matt. 18:11*** – Jesus came to rescue the lost and blind.

***Matt. 11:5*** – Jesus has skill and experience with rescue.

***John 17:12*** – He can’t rescue those who run away.

***John 9:1, 25*** – Though we were born blind, Jesus can still heal.

***Acts 9:8, 17-18*** – Saul held tightly to his blindness. Jesus still took it away.

***Luke 15:32*** – Jesus’ rescue produces joy.

***Psalm 119:176*** – We want someone to rescue us.

***John 9:5; 14:6; Acts 9:2*** – Jesus provides direction for how to live life not just how to get to Heaven.

***Eph. 5:22*** – Submission to Jesus is beneficial for us.

***Gen. 3:16*** – Submission was difficult for Eve; it can be difficult still today.

***Prov. 3:5, 6*** – Jesus is worthy of our trust in everything.

***Eph. 5:24*** – The more we trust Jesus, the easier it will be to obey Him in everything.

***Jer. 29:11*** – God’s plans for us are good, not evil.

***John 10:27*** – Jesus’ sheep follow His voice to good places.

***Psalm 23:1-3*** – Jesus leads us to pleasant places sometimes.

***Mark 4:37-39*** – When life gets dangerous, we question Jesus’ care and control.

1. **Jesus Protects His Bride**. *“savior of the body”* (Eph. 5:23)

***Eph. 5:23*** – Jesus *is* the Savior, not He *was* the Savior.

***Psalm 23:4-5; Dan. 3:17-18; 6:21-22*** – He may allow you to go through some temporary suffering and protect you *in* the storm instead of *from* it.

***Rev. 22:17*** – We can focus on the restrictions now or on the wide open spaces later.

***Rev. 22:15*** – Jesus can let us run free then because there will be no danger.

***Matt. 6:33*** – Stay close to your Shepherd for protection from life’s dangers.

1. **Jesus Loves His bride.** *“Christ also loved the church”* (Eph. 5:25)

***Hosea 1:2*** – God told Hosea to marry a prostitute.

***Hosea 3:3*** – After Hosea bought Gomer from the auctioneer, he brought her home to love her.

***Hosea 14:4*** – God promised Israel He would heal her of her unfaithfulness.

***Exodus 20:14*** – God forbids adultery.

***Exodus 20:17*** – God forbids coveting what another man’s wife does for her husband.

***Romans 8:38, 39*** – Nothing can separate us from God’s love.

***1 John 4:19*** – The only proper response to God’s love is to love Him in return.

***Matt. 22:37*** – God calls us to love Him with everything that we have.

***John 14:15; Eph. 5:10*** – Loving God makes obeying God easy.

***John 3:16*** – The test of love is what you are willing to sacrifice for love’s object.

1. **Jesus Suffers For His Bride.** *“gave Himself up for her”* (Eph. 5:25)

***John 15:13*** – Love always involves suffering, even up to the point of death.

***Eph. 5:28*** – Love leads to submission. Submission leads to personal benefit.

***John 1:11*** – Many rejected Jesus’ love.

***John 11:35, 36*** – Jesus’ heart breaks when the ones He loves are in pain.

***Romans 5:8*** – Jesus died for us when we had nothing to offer.

***Hebrews 12:2*** – We must focus on Jesus as we run our race.

***John 1:12*** – Not everyone rejected Jesus. Those who didn’t became a part of His family

***Rom. 8:32*** – Jesus holds nothing back in His quest for us.

***Luke 9:23; Phil. 3:10*** – Jesus calls us to endure until we get to the finish line.

***Prov. 27:17*** – Relationships, including marriage, grow us through a painful process.

1. **Jesus Refines His Bride.** *“that He might sanctify her”* (Eph. 5:26)

***Ezek. 16:1-14*** – God describes His relationship with Israel in graphic terms.

***Ezek. 16:15-34*** – After God cleaned Israel, she prostituted herself to other lovers.

***Prov. 11:22*** – A beautiful woman without discretion is like a gold ring in a pig’s snout.

***1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 5:5*** – We have to be clean to enter God’s home.

***Matt. 15:18-20; Eph. 5:3-4*** – Clean words are unimpressive without a clean heart.

***John 15:5*** – Any growth in you is because of Jesus.

***Isaiah 64:6*** – When we came to Jesus, we were wearing dirty rags.

***Rev. 19:8, 9*** – On our wedding day, we will stand before Jesus clothed in clean, white linen.

1. **Jesus Escorts His bride.** *“present it to Himself”* (Eph. 5:27)

***Eph. 5:27*** – Jesus works to remove spots on us not on our apparel.

***John 14:2, 3*** – Jesus will come to take His bride home.

***Matt. 10:32; Rev. 3:5*** – Jesus acknowledges us before His Father.

***Heb. 11:16*** – Jesus is proud of His bride.

***Rom. 1:16*** – Paul was not embarrassed to speak up for Jesus or His message. Are you?

***2 Tim. 2:11-13; Heb. 13:5*** – Jesus will never abandon us.

**Conclusion:**

***Rev. 19:11*** – Your Knight in shining armor riding on a white horse is not a fantasy!