



## *Repentance Tabernacle Church*

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### **The Bride of Christ**

**Focus Verse:** Ephesians 5:27 - That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

**Lesson Text:** Genesis 24:45-67; Ephesians 5:25-27

**Truth About God:** Jesus is coming for a church without blemish.

**Truth For My Life:** I will prepare myself to be part of the bride of Christ.

Abraham was around 120 years old and sent his servant to find a bride for Isaac, but he did not want Isaac to marry one of the local Canaanite women. His servant waited by the well and whispered a prayer asking the Lord to give him a sign that he was choosing the right bride for Isaac. If a woman offered to give him and all his camels water, she was the one. When Rebekah came to the well, she did just that and she was willing to leave her home for Canaan. But despite any difficulty, Rebekah was not so comfortable where she was that she could not move to where her calling led her next. The watering maiden was willing to become the wife of a patriarch, whatever that would entail.

The church is referred to as the bride of Christ in Revelation 19. During Jesus' first coming, the Father paid the price, resulting in the gift of salvation to the bride. Because of Jesus' first coming, the church is His betrothed. During Jesus' second coming, He will celebrate His marriage banquet with His bride as they come together to abide with one another forever. Between now and His second coming, Jesus is preparing a room for us in His Father's house (John 14:1-4).

Jesus does not love the church because it is perfect. However, within His love is the driving force of redemption. Jesus' love moved Him to give "himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" (Ephesians 5:25-26). Jesus' sacrifice was not just to save us but also to cleanse us. The church must embrace her Bridegroom and allow His love to heal and grow her into a bride without spots, wrinkles, and blemishes.

Since we were born again, our source of life is from Heaven, not from here. We are in this world but not of it. We are just pilgrims and strangers passing through this land on the way to a better land, a city not made with men's hands. While we are here, we must live to glorify God and make disciples as we make our way from here to Heaven.

In Matthew 25, Jesus shared a parable referred to as the Parable of the Ten Virgins. Unfortunately, the bridegroom was delayed. Only five of the ten virgins had brought additional oil for their lamps. At midnight they heard that the bridegroom was coming; all the virgins went out to meet him. Only the five wise women had enough oil to keep their lamps lit for the wedding ceremony. Jesus offered one final verse, "*Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh*" (Matthew 25:13). **We must be ready because we do not know exactly when Jesus is coming back for His church. Since we live in a time of spiritual darkness, the lamp of the Word and Spirit help us find our way and help us to be a light in our darkened world.**

The Parable of the Wedding Feast found in Matthew 22:1-4, is used to explain the Israelite betrothal and wedding customs to explain the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:16-10). Jesus appealed to the wedding feast to explain certain aspects of the coming kingdom of Heaven. The guest who was initially invited but later attacked the king's servant were the Jews. The guests who were later invited were the Gentiles. The man without the wedding garment was an attendee who had not come prepared for the feast. Jesus demonstrated that both bad and good will be coming to the banquet, representing the many who are called. However, others came prepared for the son's wedding, even though they were not originally invited. Those who were prepared represent the few who are chosen.

We should all put on the wedding garment—through God's beautiful plan of salvation—and attend the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. On that day we will finally be with the one who paid the price for us, built a home for us, and came back for us. And so shall we ever be with the Lord.