

051522

Preparing for the Wedding

John 14:1-3



Background:

We continue our studies in the Gospel of John this Sunday in the upper room where love continues to be the central theme. From the words of institution celebrating the love revealed at the cross, to the washing of feet celebrating the love of service, to the new commandment celebrating the “just as Jesus” kind of love, this week we will celebrate the love of marriage. Specifically, we will celebrate the deep love of Jesus, the bridegroom, for the church, his bride. Jesus will go to prepare a place in his Father’s house, and when he is ready, he will come back and take his bride to be with him where he is. Join us this Sunday as we explore some of the most wonderful promises in all of Scripture.

Sermon Text (ESV):

John 14:1-3

1 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Discussion Questions:

- Preparation
 - What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
 - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
 - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
 - The remedy for a troubled heart is to believe in God and also in Jesus. Today, what is troubling you? How are you anxious, fearful, or in turmoil?
 - How do Jesus's words in these 3 verses encourage or comfort you?
 - What stands out to you most about the engagement/wedding process in place during Jesus's time... and its connection to us as Christ's bride?
 - The groom would go to the bride's home and finalize arrangements with the bride's father
 - The new marriage covenant would be sealed & blessed
 - The groom would return home (for ~1 year) to prepare a home for him and his bride
 - The groom would return to "take" the bride and the weeklong wedding would begin
 - Shawn shared with us five implications of Jesus as our bridegroom. Which of these is most impactful to you? Why?
 - **Deep Intimacy** with God (see Ephesians 5)
 - **Security** in God, who has sealed the marriage in Christ's blood
 - **Motivation** not to fool around with other lords/gods
 - **Path of Discipleship**, finding & spending time with Him
 - Alive in the **Longing for His 2nd Coming**, with eternity in our hearts