

1. The _____ . (Matt. 1:18-21)

- The betrothal was a more _____ affair than our modern engagement.
- Most of us know this story, but what we may not know are the _____ between this and Jesus' arrangements for His bride, the Church.
- Jesus has come from His Father's home in heaven to our home here on earth in order to _____ us out as His bride (John 3:16-17).
- He has chosen us (Eph. 1:4; John 15:16) and asked us to marry him and we have said, " _____ " by believing and trusting in Him (John 1:12). We are betrothed.
- Jesus has paid a great price for us, His body and His blood (1 Cor. 6:20), which we celebrate regularly with a cup of wine and a piece of bread.
- He has gone back to His Father's house to prepare _____ for us, and He will return when the time is right in the Father's plan (John 14:2-3; Matt. 24:36).
- He has given us the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts as His _____, like a wedding ring, His solemn promise He will return and we will be wed. (Eph. 1:13-14; 1 Pet. 4:10)
- But we don't know _____ He is coming back. He's been gone for almost 2,000 years, but we believe He is coming as He promised.
- It is our job to remain _____ to Him (Matt. 25:1-13;) and prepare for His return using the gifts He has given us (Eph. 4:11-13; Acts 1:8; James 4:4).

2. The _____ . (Rev. 19:7-9)

- The day of the wedding was known to all, but the _____ was not.
- Following the wedding ceremony, came the wedding _____.
- These wedding customs also have _____ for us today as an analogy.
- Both Christ and the Church have been _____ before their wedding, Jesus by John the Baptist and the Bride as commanded by Jesus following acceptance of His proposal (Matt. 28:19-20).
- Jesus Christ has been separated from His Bride for nearly 2,000 years, and one day yet future He will come for her and transform her into her glorified heavenly state and take her to _____. (1 Cor. 15:51-52)
- The _____ will mark the end of our betrothal and the beginning of our wedding celebration.
- Our Bridegroom will be accompanied by an angelic escort and announced by a _____ and a _____. (1 Thess. 4:16-17)
- He will come from His Father's House and take us back to the dwellings He has _____ for us.
- The Marriage Supper of the _____ will then take place in heaven after the Rapture and before Jesus' 2nd Coming (Rev. 19:7-9; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; Ps. 103:12; Jer. 31:34; Is. 43:25; Heb. 8:12; 10:17)

3. The _____ . (Rev. 19:14-16; 20:6)

- The new couple had _____ days of rest and celebration.
- We will have a _____ year period of celebrating our marriage, which will happen during the seven years of the Tribulation on earth.
- But when He comes back to the world, in His 2nd Coming, we will come with Him in His train, _____ in our now glorified state. (2 Thess. 1:10-12; Rev. 19:14-16)
- After the fighting is done and Jesus takes His place on the throne as the _____ of all the earth in His Millennial Kingdom, we will be there with Him, too. (Rev. 20:6)
- And even after that, in the _____ state, we will live as His Bride with Him, and the Heavenly Father, in the New Jerusalem. (Rev. 21:2, 9-10)

Calvary Connection Group
Discussion Questions for the week of Feb. 18, 2024

Getting to Know Me

- What is one of your happiest memories from before you turned 18 years old?
- What is your middle name? Is there any significance or family meaning to it?

Into the Bible

- What one thing stood out to you in this week's sermon as something important to understand and apply?

- Read Eph. 5:25-27, 32, remembering the context of the sermon, what has Jesus done to present us, His bride, spotless, holy, and blameless? What is the Holy Spirit doing right now to that same goal (Eph. 3:14-19)?

- What is the mystery of Eph. 5:32? How does this apply to our marriages today?

- We didn't have time to dwell on Jesus' parable of the 10 Virgins (Matt. 25:1-13). What does this parable tell us about our responsibility as the bride of Christ today?

Application

- What part of this extended analogy was the most meaningful or surprising to you? Why?

- How are you living today in light of the fact that Jesus, our Betrothed, is coming back for us soon?