

The Wedding (Song of Solomon 3:6–5:1)

Today when a couple desires to become biblically and legally married they obtain a “Certificate of Marriage” and then before a Minister or Judge and at least two witnesses commit their lives to each other through legally binding vows.

In biblical times, weddings began with a dramatic procession. The bride would wait at her parents’ house—the home where she grew up—until the bridegroom arrived. She didn’t know the exact moment he would come, so she had to be ready at any time. When the groom appeared, he came with his companions in a festive parade, leading her from her family’s house to his own.

For Solomon and the Shulamite, this meant leaving her humble home in the Jezreel Valley and joining him in Jerusalem’s royal palace. The Shulamite described the scene with awe: *“Who is this coming out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the merchant’s fragrant powders?”* (Song of Solomon 3:6). Picture it—the king in his royal palanquin, carried high with silver pillars on a golden base, incense swirling with the dust of horses, soldiers marching in gleaming, gold armor, and crowds stretching behind him for what must have seemed like miles (probably several hundred yards).

For the bride, it was breathtaking. She felt secure, surrounded by her groom’s protection and the strength of his men. Yet she also felt the weight of responsibility. Marrying royalty meant sharing her husband with the nation. But she didn’t resist; she surrendered joyfully, committing herself to him fully (v. 11). True love is willing to face responsibility with courage.

The Beauty of Purity and Gentleness

After the wedding came the consummation. Solomon praised his bride with tender, poetic words. To our ears, *“hair like a flock of goats”* and *“teeth like a flock of shorn sheep”* (Song of Solomon 4:1–2) may sound strange, but in that culture they meant rich, flowing hair and a radiant smile. Solomon’s compliments showed thoughtfulness and affection, helping his bride relax.

He assured her of his devotion: *“You are all fair, my love, and there is no spot in you”* (Song of Solomon 4:7). His words reflected both gentleness and patience—no pressure, no rush, just the joy of being together. He even honored her purity, describing her as *“a garden enclosed... a spring shut up, a fountain sealed”* (Song of Solomon 4:12). She had saved herself for her husband, and Solomon cherished that gift.

This is God’s design: purity before marriage, faithfulness in marriage, and joy within marriage. When Solomon and the Shulamite followed God’s plan, He gave His approval: *“Eat, O friends! Drink, yes, drink deeply, O beloved ones!”* (Song of Solomon 5:1). Many scholars see this as God’s blessing over their union—His declaration that intimacy within marriage is not only allowed but holy and pleasing to Him.

Practical Application

This passage offers timeless wisdom for us today:

- **Be ready.** Just as the bride had to be prepared for her groom's arrival, we must live ready for Christ's return. Jesus, our heavenly Bridegroom, could come at any moment (Matthew 25:1–13).
- **Build on purity and trust.** God calls us to guard our hearts and bodies until marriage, then to enjoy intimacy in the way He designed. Purity brings freedom, not bondage.
- **Use words to encourage.** Like Solomon, we should use our words to strengthen, affirm, and bless our spouses, family, and friends. Life-giving words create security and deepen love.
- **See marriage as holy.** A godly marriage isn't a human invention—it's God's idea, designed to reflect Christ's relationship with His church.

The Greater Love Story

As beautiful as Solomon's wedding was, it points us to something even greater—the love story between Christ and His people. Just as the bride didn't know when her groom would arrive, we don't know when Jesus will return. But we are called to be ready.

The cross is God's ultimate wedding procession—the moment when Jesus first came for His bride, the church. He gave Himself fully, sacrificially, so that we could belong to Him forever. In Him we find security, joy, and eternal love.

If you haven't yet given your life to Jesus, today is the day. He is the Bridegroom who loves you with an everlasting love. Surrender your heart to Him, trust Him as your Savior, and follow Him as your Lord. And for those who already belong to Him, remember that salvation is not a one-time event—it's a daily walk of trust. Each day we are called to live in His love, lean on His strength, and be ready for His return.

The wedding of Solomon and the Shulamite ended with joy and blessing. The wedding feast of the Lamb will be even greater. Make sure you are part of it—by giving your life to Jesus today, and by trusting Him every day until you see Him face to face.