

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and the face of this company to join together

and

in holy matrimony.

If anyone knows any reason why these should not be so joined, let him speak now or forever hold his peace.

The Bible says the Lord Jesus, during His earthly ministry, attended a wedding at Cana of Galilee where He worked His first miracle and brought a special blessing to that occasion. Let us begin this service by asking His blessings on this occasion as well. (Prayer).

Now let me ask, Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

_____ and _____ wanted me to share the gospel at their wedding. I don't know any better way to do that than to present the parallel which we see in the marriage of Isaac and Rebecca in the O.T. Notice...

I. WHAT CAN BE SEEN IN ABRAHAM'S SON ISAAC.

1. **Isaac had a miraculous birth. God gave Abram and Sarah this son when it was humanly impossible. Isaac's birth is a type of our Saviour who had a miraculous birth.**

“Behold a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son and they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”(Mt. 1:23).

2. **Isaac was offered as a sacrifice and received up in a figure of**

death. Isaac being offered is a type of our Lord Jesus who was offered up on Calvary's cross for our sins.

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.”(I Pet. 3:18).

3. Isaac was looking for a bride to bring joy to his heart and complete his life. This is what the Lord Jesus is seeking and why He gave Himself on the cross.

“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost (Lk.19:10)...Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross...(Heb. 12:2).

Now to secure a bride for Isaac his father Abraham sent his servant to search out the one for him. Notice...

II. WHAT CAN BE SEEN IN ABRAHAM' SERVANT.

1. Abram's servant was sent to seek a bride for Isaac. And he went a great distance to find her. This servant is a type of the Holy Spirit and His work in our day. He is seeking a people who will make up the Bride of Christ.

“And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness and of judgment.” (Jn. 16:8).

2. Abram's servant told Rebecca all about Isaac, his master's son. This is what the Holy Spirit is doing in our day. He is testifying of Christ. Jesus said...

“But when the Comforter is come... He will testify of Me.” (Jn:15:26).

3. Abraham's servant presented Rebecca with a wonderful opportunity but she had to decide of her own free will. It

wasn't a matter of being forced. This is what a person must do today, he must believe the testimony of the Holy Spirit and be led to receive Christ of his own free will. The Bible says:

“He that believeth on the Son of God hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (Jn:3:36).

Now notice....

III. WHAT CAN BE SEEN IN REBECCA'S DECISION

1. Rebecca believed the testimony of Abraham's servant and she was led to Isaac. And just as Rebecca believed his witness, this is what we must do. We must believe the testimony of the Holy Spirit in order to be led to Christ.

“Wherefore, as the Holy Spirit saith, Today if ye will hear His voice.” (Heb. 3:7).

2. Rebecca exercised faith and followed Abraham's servant who led her to Isaac. This is what we must do also. We must be led by the Holy Spirit to receive Christ as our Saviour. It is only then that we become a part of His Bride and enter a relationship with Him.
3. Rebecca accepted Isaac and entered into a wonderful relationship with him. This is what believers have entered into when they accept Jesus Christ.

“My beloved is mine, and I am His..” (Song:2:16).

_____ and _____ are entering into a wonderful relationship today and like Isaac and Rebecca's wedding it is a beautiful picture of Christ and His bride, the church.

If you have never entered into that wonderful relationship with Christ as a believer, I hope you'll consider this parallel and receive Christ as your Saviour.

_____ and _____ if
you now intend to accept each other as husband and wife, would
you please step forward at this time.

Song _____

_____ Do you take

_____ *to be your lawfully wedded Wife, do you promise to fulfill all the duties of a Husband, providing for her needs to the best of your ability, be true to her in every word, thought and deed, and love and cherish her while life shall last? ("I do")*

_____ Do you take

_____ *to be your lawfully wedded Husband, do you promise to fulfill all the duties of a Wife, to love him, to honor and keep him in sickness and in health, submitting yourself unto him as unto the Lord, while life shall last? ("I do")*

The Bible says when God made a covenant with Noah He set a rainbow in the cloud as a token of that covenant. What token do you present as a sign of your marriage covenant?

(Ring to the man) I _____ take thee
_____ *to be my wedded Wife...to have and to hold from this day forward...for better, for worse....for richer, for poorer...in sickness and in health...to love and to cherish...till death us do part...and with this Ring I thee wed.*

(Ring to the woman) I _____ take thee

_____ *to be my wedded Husband...to have and to hold from this day forward...for better, for worse...for richer, for poorer...in sickness and in health...to love, cherish, and to obey...till death us do part...and with this Ring I thee wed.*

Song _____

_____ and _____
Let me charge both of you to honor and to keep the vows which you have made to each other today. And also to stay faithful to the Lord so that you will continue to have God's blessings upon your relationship.

And now as you have both openly declared your desire to be married and have made solemn promises before God and these witnesses,

and have confirmed these things by giving and receiving rings, I do by the authority vested in me as a Minister of the Gospel, and authorized by the state of NC, pronounce you to be Husband and Wife.

Matt. 19:6 says, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

You may now kiss your Bride

(Candles) Now if you will notice the outside candles of the candelabra have been lighted to represent _____ and _____'s lives to this moment. They are two distinct lights, each capable of going their separate ways. To bring bliss and happiness to their home, there must be the merging of these two lights into one light. This is what the Lord meant when He said

Matt. 19:5... "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they two shall be one

flesh.”

From now on their thoughts shall be for each other rather than for their individual selves. Their plans shall be mutual, their joys and sorrows shall be shared alike.

And now as each takes a candle and together light the center candle they will extinguish their own thus letting the center candle represent the union of their lives into one flesh. Now as this one light cannot be divided, neither shall their lives be divided, but be a united testimony in a Christian home.

Song: _____

And now let us pray...

And now ladies and gentlemen, may I present to you
Mr. and Mrs. _____