

Day 42

# PILGRIMAGE OF GRACE

MATRIMONY



**On Holy Tuesday,** the Scriptures give us a rough timeline of Jesus' activities and what Christians remember and celebrate:

- Jesus predicts his own death (John 12:20-36, John 13:21-38)
- The conspiracies to trap Jesus escalate: the religious leaders want to get rid of Jesus of Nazareth (Mark 1:18)
- In the traditional Latin Rite, the passion of St. Mark is read in full this day
- In the Eastern Rite Churches, this day is called "Fig Tuesday" and they commemorate:
  - the cursing of the fig tree (Mathew 21:19-22)
  - the Parable of the Ten Virgins (Mathew 25: 1-13)
  - the Parable of the Talents (Mathew 25:14-30)



## **Comments on Marriage in Ancient Israel,** by John C. Cavadini

### ● **The Customs**

In ancient Israel, when it was time for a man and woman to marry, both fathers would negotiate the bride price to compensate the bride-to-be's family. After exchanging a glass of wine to seal the agreement, the couple was formally engaged.

### ● **The Bridegroom**

The young man told then told his fiancé in effect, "I am going home to my father's house to prepare a place for you. When I am finished, I'll return to take you to be my wife. The son... would then build a new house onto his father's existing one.... Here the family members ate, worked and lived together. Everyone benefited as family benefited as family members shared their lives and values... The son worked on his new home... and eagerly

awaited his father's final approval (because) only the father could decide when the building was finally complete.

- **The Bride**

As her fiancé prepared a new home, the bride-to-be... would remain in her parents' home, preparing wedding clothes... She was known to the community as, 'One who had been bought with a price'. She might wait six months, or nine months, or even longer for her fiancé to return – no one knew the exact time he would come for her.

Eventually, she would hear the sound of the shofar as her bridegroom entered her village and announced that their wedding day had arrived. The wise bride was well-prepared for her groom's arrival.

- **The Significance**

These insights help us to understand how wonderful heaven and our eternal relationship with God will be. When Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of Heaven, he compared himself to a bridegroom who was engaged to be married.

"I love you as my bride," he said in effect, "so I'll pay the bride price. I'll give up my life for you. I'll go to my father's house where there are many rooms to prepare a place for you. One day I'll return and take you to be with me forever in heaven."

Jesus' second coming will be like the long-awaited arrival of a bridegroom, returning for his beloved brides. And heaven will be like a joyous wedding reception, celebrating the love between bride and groom.

