

As Paul weaves his way deeper into the Gentile world, he discovers they have different way of looking at Marriage. In ancient Greece, the law permitted Marriage, between relatives of certain degrees. For example, an uncle could marry a niece, in hopes of safeguarding the family's fortune. Paul then is speaking, not about lawful, but about sacred marriage, and overcoming impure sexual conduct. Marriage is indeed holy as God Himself presides over the first marriage and Jesus works his first sign at a Marriage feast in Cana. These norms of marriage have been with humankind from the beginning, but today, some would have us rewrite what nature itself teaches us. Who ever disregards Paul's teaching, refutes not a human teaching, but what Father, Son and Holy Spirit instruct? Don't be seduced by language and arguments that appeal to a distorted notion of inclusiveness. It's not inclusiveness, but, are instead a call to rebellion.

Mother Church, as She so often does, mines the marriage metaphor to describe something of the kingdom of God. The setting for today's Gospel teaching is in the preparations for a marriage banquet.

Ten bridesmaids, split right down the middle. 50% wise 50% foolish. They all fall asleep waiting for the bridegroom to arrive. No difference there. But the wise have oil to light their lamps when the bridegroom arrives and foolish have none. At midnight with the Bridegroom's arrival, and only the Seven/Eleven open, off they must go to buy some oil. Returning, they find themselves locked out from the wedding feast. The smarter ones won't share their oil and now the Master denies even knowing them.

I always inform young couples preparing for marriage, saying, before you book the reception hall or even the Church, find out what kind of son of daughter you plan to marry What kind of brother or sister are they? What kind of friend are they? It will tell you a lot about the kind of husband or wife you can expect. Wise or foolish! Do your homework, don't cheat, and don't hurry. Stay alert and attentive because we know neither the day nor the hour, much less the circumstances, when our Lord might call on us.

Amen