

# Luke 5:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them?

## Analysis

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Can ye make children bridechamber fast while bridegroom is with them. Rhetorical question expects no. Children nymphōnos wedding guests attendants. Bridechamber wedding hall. Fast nēsteusai abstain food. While en hō during time. Bridegroom nymphios groom. Is with them presence. Fasting is mourning bridegroom presence is joy. Cannot mourn while celebrating. Jesus self-identification as bridegroom. Old Testament imagery God as husband Israel as bride. Jesus claiming divine prerogatives. Reformed theology sees Christ as husband church as bride. Intimate covenant relationship. Marriage most intimate human relationship pictures Christ and church.

## Historical Context

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Bridegroom imagery rich Old Testament background. Isaiah Jeremiah Hosea depict God as husband Israel as bride. Jewish weddings week-long celebrations feasting. Fasting during wedding inappropriate. Jesus presence is ultimate celebration. He brings kingdom inaugurates new age. Disciples experience joy now though suffering awaits. Early church maintained tension joy in Christ suffering in world. Paradox of Christian life. Modern church sometimes loses this balance either triumphalism no suffering or pessimism no joy. Biblical Christianity holds both.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## 1 John 4:8 — God is love

### Study Questions

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1. What does Jesus self-identification as bridegroom reveal about His relationship with disciples church?
2. How does bridegroom imagery challenge both joyless religion and superficial triumphalism?

### Interlinear Text

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ὁ δὲ εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτῶν Μὴ δύνασθε τοὺς υἱοὺς  
G3588 And he said unto them G3361 Can ye G3588 the children  
G1161 G2036 G4314 G846 G1410 G5207

τοῦ νυμφῶνος ἐν ᾧ ὁ νυμφίος μετ' αὐτῶν  
G3588 of the bridechamber G1722 while G3588 the bridegroom with them  
G3567 G3739 G3566 G3326 G846

ἐστιν ποιῆσαι νηστεύειν  
is make fast  
G2076 G4160 G3522

### Additional Cross-References

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**John 3:29** (Parallel theme): He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

**Isaiah 62:5** (Parallel theme): For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

**Isaiah 54:5** (Parallel theme): For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

**Matthew 22:2** (Parallel theme): The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

**2 Corinthians 11:2** (Parallel theme): For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

**Zephaniah 3:17** (Parallel theme): The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

**Song of Solomon 5:8**: I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love.

**Song of Solomon 6:1**: Whither is thy beloved gone, O thou fairest among women? whither is thy beloved turned aside? that we may seek him with thee.