

# The Bride: A Love Story Sermon Outline

By Jeffrey Smith

## Isaiah 62:4-5 (The Message)

*No more will anyone call you Rejected,  
and your country will no more be called Ruined.  
You'll be called (My Delight),  
and your land (Married),  
Because God delights in you  
and your land will be like a wedding celebration.  
For as a young man marries his virgin bride,  
so your builder marries you,  
And as a bridegroom is happy in his bride,  
so your God is happy with you.*

- Most people believe God is an angry old man in the sky that is looking for the perfect opportunity to kill them.
- The story of God and humanity begins with man in right-standing with God. Man is created in God's image, man gets to name the animals, he gets a great looking wife, and everything appears wonderful.
- SIN HAPPENS. Man is cursed. No more relationship with God. It is the first major plot point in the Bible.
- Hope seemed lost.
- It's like in Titanic, Jack falls in love with Rose, he gets a fancy dinner, he teaches her how to rivedance, everything is great, then they have this little inconvenience of hitting an ICEBERG.
- It like the moment in Toy Story 2 when Woody gets stolen from the garage sale by the deranged toy collector.
- Hope seemed lost...but there was a rescue plan.

## **I. God has always loved man.**

### Jeremiah 31:3 (The Message)

*"I've never quit loving you and never will. Expect love, love, and more love!"*

- Look at someone next to you and say, “You can’t MAKE God quit loving you.”
- It says, “I have NEVER quit loving you”.

Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

*38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[a] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- It says, “Nothing can separate you from His love.”
- Just because someone punishes someone does not mean they do not love them.
- (Share a personal story about punishing a child...it could be lighthearted)

**II. Jesus was sent because of God’s great love for us.**

- John 3:16 and 1 John 3:16 explain the Father’s great love for us AND Jesus’ great love for us.

John 3:16 (NIV)

*For God **so loved the world** that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

1 John 3:16 (NIV)

***This is how we know what love is:*** Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

- God gave His greatest possession...for LOVE.
- Jesus gave all He could possibly give...for LOVE.
- Many people think God is a dictator that wants mindless slaves.

**III. Because of Jesus sacrifice we get to experience the full measure of God’s love... forever.**

- The Cross was the greatest payment for the greatest debt that had ever been owed. It **completely** satisfied the debt once and for all.

- Now we go back to that moment when hope seemed lost.
- God had a plan - it was Jesus. He atoned for our failures.
- Think about that word: **At - One** – Ment
- God wanted us to be “**At One**” with Him from the beginning.

#### **IV. God views us as a perfect Bride based on the merits of Jesus.**

- Adam fell into a deep sleep and God pierced his side to make Eve.
- Jesus died on the Cross and a soldier pierced His side.
- God does not view us simply the way a master views a slave.
- A master values a slave because of WHAT they DO. A husband values a wife because of WHO she IS.
- God is not an angry old man trying to kill you. He is not a merciless slave master.
- God is like a bridegroom who loves you because of **WHO** you are.

*Isaiah 62:5 (The Message)*

*And as a bridegroom is happy in his bride, so your God is happy with you.*