

SOME READINGS SUITABLE FOR A MARRIAGE SERVICE

Song of Solomon 2.10-13; 8.6,7

My beloved speaks and says to me:

'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.'

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm;

for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.

Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.

If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly scorned.

I Corinthians 13:1-8a

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love,

I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,

and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,
but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,

clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other;
just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.

And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;

teach and admonish one another in all wisdom;

and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed,

do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Matthew 5.1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain;
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.’

Mark 10.6-9,13-16

Jesus said, ‘From the beginning of creation, “God made them male and female.”

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh.” So they are no longer two, but one flesh.

Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.’

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them;
and the disciples spoke sternly to them.

But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them,

‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them;

for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.

Truly I tell you,

whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’

And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

John 2.1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’

And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.’

His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’

Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification,
each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus said to them, ‘Fill the jars with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim.

He said to them, ‘Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.’ So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine,

and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew),
the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,

‘Everyone serves the good wine first,

and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk.

But you have kept the good wine until now.’

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory;
and his disciples believed in him.