

## THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST

Matthew 22:1-14

12/4/11

**Big Idea:** Those who enter the Kingdom of Heaven are invited, choose whether to come, must wear the right clothes, and have been chosen.

In Matthew 22:1-14 Jesus gives a parable to expand on what He said in 21:43.

### 1. God and Israel 22:1-7

#### a. The symbolism

- Wedding feast = the kingdom of heaven vv. 1-2

It is the time when Christ comes to establish His rule on earth for 1000 years. cf Rev 19:6-9

Then in the new heavens and new earth. Rev 20:4; 21:1-4

- King = God the Father
- Son = Jesus
- Slaves = God's messengers
- Those first invited = Israel

#### b. The meaning

- 3 Through out the Old Testament God had sent out His prophets to the Jewish people inviting them to be a part of His coming kingdom.

Though most of them were outwardly religious, many of them were *unwilling* to genuinely respond to God's invitation.

- 4 Now John the Baptist, Jesus and others were carrying God's invitation.

Note that there were repeated invitations

- 5 Some *paid no attention*

They were *too busy* with the things of this life to be concerned about God or His coming kingdom

Farms and businesses

Today we could add fun and entertainment

*To refuse a direct invitation from the king would be an extreme insult and affront to God's authority.*

The real reason many people turn away from God's invitation is because they have no real heart for God.

Others things are more important to them.

When it comes down to a choice between a boy friend and God, too often girls chose the boyfriend.

When the choice is between pleasure and God, too many chose the pleasure.

When it is a choice between happiness and holiness, too often happiness is viewed as more important.

**6** Others mistreated and killed God's messengers

Not only the OT prophets but also John the Baptist, Jesus, the apostles, Stephen and others

They not only rejected God's message, they hated God's messengers.

Ultimately they were in rebellion against God.

**7** God sent His armies to destroy the murderers and their city.

In 70 AD God sent the Romans to discipline and destroy the Jewish nation.

The Romans were God's army in the sense that He used them as His instruments to punish rebellious Israel.

At that point Israel was temporarily set aside.

God's kingdom program delayed and was to be preceded by judgment.

**2. God and the Church 22:8-13**

**8-10** Everybody is invited

*From the main highways*

*As many as you find*

Both Jew and Gentile

***Both good and evil***

The upright and the lowlives

The socially acceptable and the unacceptable

**There was one requirement**

**11-12 But they must be dressed in the right clothes**

It was not uncommon for a king to provide attire for his guests. (cf. Gen. 45:22; Est. 6:8–9)

This appears to be the case here. (passive participle)

One man had rejected the king's clothing and chosen to wear his own.

By not wearing the garments provided, this guest highly insulted the king.

***The king's clothing represents God's purity and righteousness that only come through Christ.***

**Isaiah 61:10** . . . For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness . . .

**1 Corinthians 1:30** But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption

**Galatians 3:27** For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

**Philippians 3:9** . . . found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith

People wearing the wedding garment have accepted Christ's righteousness by faith.

They are not relying on their own worthiness.

The person without a wedding garment is one who professes to follow God, but comes on the basis of his own righteousness. (worthiness)

**Isaiah 64:6** For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And *all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment*

**13 The person dressed in the wrong clothes is thrown out**

Because there is none of us who is worthy

There is none is of who is free from sin

There is none of us who is morally spotless.

Thrown into the outer darkness

A place of eternal punishment

A place where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth

Jesus uses this to describe a place of eternal judgment (cf. 8:12; 13:42, 50; 24:51; 25:30).

**3. God and the Chosen 22:14**

**a. Christ's death is sufficient for all.**

**John 1:29** The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

**2 Corinthians 5:19** . . . God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

**Colossians 1:20** and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

**1 John 2:2** and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

**1 John 4:14** We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world.

**“Why Calvin is More Biblical Than Some Calvinists”**

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**b. Whoever believes in Christ will have eternal life.**

**John 3:15-16** so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

**John 6:40** "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

**John 11:25-26** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

**Acts 2:21** 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'

**Romans 10:13** for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

**c. But none will seek after God on their own.**

**Romans 3:10** as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; <sup>11</sup> THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

**1 Corinthians 2:14** But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

**d. So God has chosen to draw some unto Himself.**

**John 6:44** "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>45</sup> "It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.

**John 6:65** And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

**Acts 13:48** . . . as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

**2 Thessalonians 2:13** . . . God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

God is fair in that He doesn't owe salvation to anyone. No one deserves it.

A woman came to Dr. Harry Ironside one day and said, "Dr. Ironside, I have trouble with that scripture which says 'Jacob have I loved; Esau have I hated'. I can't understand how God could have hated Esau." Dr. Ironside replied, "My dear lady, that scripture has always troubled me also, for I cannot understand how God could have loved Jacob."

The Bible teaches both human responsibility and divine sovereignty:

Those who reject the invitation do so willingly.

Those enter the kingdom do so only because of the grace of God in choosing and drawing them.

- e. **If you are willing to come to Christ you can have assurance that you have been chosen by God.**

**Romans 10:9-11** that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

Are you going to accept the garment of Christ's righteousness or will you attempt to stand before God dressed in your own supposed worthiness?

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