

Gospel of Matthew 22 “Receiving the Invitation”
Matthew 22:1-14
February 18, 2024

Matthew 22:1-14

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, 2 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, 3 and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”’ 5 But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. 7 The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ 10 And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. 12 And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The invitation and the garment.

There is a timeliness to the invitation.

This is an “anyone” guest list.

The king provides the garments.

Charles Spurgeon - “The wedding garment is simply mentioned here as being a test of loyalty to those who came to the marriage feast, and as a mode by which rebellion was avowed and loyalty made apparent. Here was a man then who came into the gospel feast, and yet refused to comply with the command which related to that feast. He willfully preferred self to God, his heart was full of enmity and pride, he despised the gifts of grace, he scorned the rule of love, he stood a defiant rebel even at the banquet of mercy which his king had spread.”

Why did he come to the wedding? He thinks the kingdom of God is built on merit not mercy.

Isaiah 61:10

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Only God can dress you in the garments of salvation.

The King will come in soon.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through the Scripture during our Sunday gathering?
- What are some memorable weddings you have attended? Why were they so special? What is the most expensive one?
- Have you ever had to figure out a guest list for wedding? Why can this be difficult?
- What is the response of the first guest list to the wedding call? What do you think Jesus is trying to reveal in this portion of the story?
- How is does the gospel message emerge through the second set to guests?
- What concerns you about the man at the wedding dressed inappropriately? If everyone, "good and bad", attended then what is the issue?
- How might we be attending the kingdom of God but not really honoring the king?
- What kind of response or change does the parable encourage us to make?
- How can your Grow Group encourage you to apply this passage to your life this week?