



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Wedding!

Matthew 22:1-14

Message #61 of 80 – S1096

Sermon given on May 12, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Wedding!

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Opening Comments

- Happy Mother's Day!
- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 22**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Wedding!**
- This morning, we are going to look at the third of three parables that Jesus used to convict the religious leaders who had confronted Him of their hypocrisy.
- This happens just a couple of days before they arrest Him and falsely accuse Him and turn Him over to the Romans to be crucified.
- **Matthew 22:1**
- 'Jesus answered them' – Jesus had told them in the previous parable that they were worthy of judgment for rebelling against God and rejecting the Messiah – Jesus.
- **Matthew 21:45-46**
- Jesus will go on to say there is a heavy price to pay for continually rejecting the grace of God.
- **Matthew 22:2**
- Royal weddings are always major events.
- In Bible times, they would include a feast that would last for a week or longer.
- Announcements would be sent out well in advance so that the guests had time to prepare.
- This parable is symbolic of the gospel in the world.
- We must be careful not to think of the gospel as a Christian message.
- It is the good news of God for the whole world, to the Jew first, and then to the Gentiles.
- The king = God the Father. The Son is Christ Jesus.

- The marriage is the consummation of the gospel (**Ephesians 5:25-27**). Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
- The bride of Christ (the church) is those, Jews and Gentiles, who have heard the gospel, repented of their sins, and received Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
- Once preparations are complete word is sent out to the guests.
- **Matthew 22:3**
- The ‘servants’ are the prophets God sent to call people into a right relationship with Him.
- ‘to call’ – is not as soft as it sounds.
- It means: “to authoritatively communicate a demand for the presence or participation of.”
- For the Jews, faith, obedience, and worship were commanded.
- The gospel was offered to the Jews first.
- And then through the Jews the gospel would spread to the whole world. At least, that was God’s plan.
- ‘they were not willing’ – They didn’t want to go.
- It is not that they were unable, even though they give excuses later, they had no desire to come.
- This is a truth about those who do not receive the gospel message.
- It is not that they cannot respond, they are unwilling to respond.
- Every reason they give is a way of making themselves feel good about rejecting the God who loves them and His Son who loves them and died for their sins.
- There is never a good reason to refuse to receive Christ.
- The king is patient and persistent with his call.
- **Matthew 22:4-6**
- ‘he sent out other servants’ – God is persistent in His attempts to call people into a right relationship with Him.
- He doesn’t accept your first rejection and then abandons you to your fate. (**2 Peter 3:9**).

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- If you have been praying for someone to get saved for a long time, memorize this verse, and pray it over your heart.
- It will help you to be patient and to persevere for them.
- ‘made light of’ - disregard, neglect, ignore. – “to not care v. — to not feel concern or interest.”
- Jesus is speaking to the religious people of His time.
- God had been calling the Jews to the marriage feast for hundreds of years through the prophets.
- And here is the groom, their Messiah, Christ Jesus, and they don’t care.
- ‘to...farm...business...’ – In essence, they are saying that the wedding is no more important than anything in their everyday lives.
- That is like saying you can’t come to church because you need to organize your sock drawer.
- If someone is unwilling to come to church, don’t make excuses, just don’t come.
- Some unbelievers are content just to ignore or neglect God’s call to salvation.
- There are others who will take a more malignant approach and attempt to eradicate all awareness of God and the gospel.
- The king is displeased.
- **Matthew 22:7**
- For generations, those opposed to God’s rule in Israel killed the prophets He sent to them.
- And they were about to kill the King’s Son, Jesus.
- Less than forty years after Jesus said this, the Romans came in and slaughtered hundreds of thousands of Jews and destroyed Jerusalem and the temple of God.
- When grace is rejected, all that is left is judgment.
- The king still has a wedding feast to fill with guests.
- **Matthew 22:8-10**
- Jesus is referring to the religious Jews.

- They were not worthy of God’s blessing because of their rejection of His Son, their Messiah, Christ Jesus.
- Those other guests are the Gentiles – those who are not Jews.
- The gospel is for anyone, whether the world sees them as good or bad, the gospel saves them all in the same way.

- **Matthew 22:11-12**

- One of the interpretations of this was that the king provided special garments for each of the guests to wear.
- To refuse to wear what the king provided was very disrespectful.
- The imagery is powerful.
- God, represented in the parable as the king, has provided a garment for everyone He has invited to the wedding of His Son.
- That garment is the righteousness of God attained through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross (**Isaiah 61:10**).

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful 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 with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

- To refuse salvation is exceedingly disrespectful to God.
- The self-righteous sense no need to be clothed in the righteousness of God because they believe their righteousness is as good as anything God could offer.
- The king wants to know why this man is not wearing a wedding garment.
- The inference is that he could have – it was available to him and he simply chose not to wear it.
- ‘...he was speechless’ – There was no excuse that could justify the level of disrespect he had exhibited to the king.
- The apostle Paul says that this will be the response of everyone who stands before without salvation in Christ (**Romans 1:20-21**).

For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

- ‘Friend’ – This is the same word Jesus will use when Judas comes to betray Him in the Garden of Gethsemane.

- Jesus then informs His hearers of the consequence of being clothed in our own righteousness when they go to stand before the Lord.
- **Matthew 22:13**
- ‘outer darkness’ – ‘the abode of evil spirits.’
- This points to the future eternal judgment of all who would disrespect God and reject His gracious offer of salvation.
- Then Jesus says something He has said before.
- **Matthew 22:14**
- The Jews were invited into the kingdom of God, and they chose to build their own kingdom. The Gentiles were also invited (Isaiah 45:22).
- To be chosen, one must be clothed with the righteousness of God through faith in Christ (John 14:6).
- For the faithful of the church: rejoice in your salvation, live out your salvation in righteousness, and help others to be clothed in righteousness.
- We are now the messengers, sent by our Savior-King Christ Jesus to go out to the highways to invite everyone to the great wedding feast of God.
- We will be partaking of Communion this morning.
- It is a time to remind ourselves of what Christ did to make a way for us to be covered in God’s righteousness.
- The Bible exhorts us to examine ourselves before we partake in Communion.
- Let’s take a few moments and reflect upon our faith.
- Ask God how you are doing at living out your salvation in righteousness.
- Ask Him to reveal anything He would like you to do differently.
- Let’s all take a few moments to reflect and then I will pray.
- **Pray! Communion!** Worship Team plays the last song!