

Matthew 22

Scriptures:

Notes:

Matthew 22:1-14 - The King's Wedding!

Scriptures:

Matthew 21:45-46 - Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. 46 But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.

^{CP}
1 And Jesus answered and spoke to them

Notes:

'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. This parable is a response to The Chief priest's and Pharisee's response to the last parable (Matthew 21:45-46).

again by parables and said:

Scriptures:

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.

^{CP}
2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain

G3666 - ὁμοιῶ (homoiōō) -

^{CP} king who arranged a marriage for his son,

G4160 – make a path.

Notes:

'The kingdom of heaven is like...' – The Chief Priests and Pharisees are viewing the world through the lens of their experience, religion, and self-interests. Jesus is describing heaven to them through the lens of truth and God's plan for the world.

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). 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.

Scriptures:

³ and sent out his  servants to call those who

G2564 – “to summon
v. — to authoritatively
communicate a
demand for the
presence or
participation of.”

were invited to the wedding; and

they were not willing to come.

G2309 – want to.

Notes:

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.

‘...those who were invited...’ – This is the Jews. 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 or unable to, 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.

Scriptures:

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.

⁴ Again, [👑]he sent out other servants, saying,

Notes:

'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 abandon you to your fate. God is persistent and patient (2 Peter 3:9). 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.

'Tell those who are invited, "See, [👑]I have

prepared [👑]my dinner; [👑]my oxen and fatted

cattle *are* killed, and all things *are* ready.

G2092 –
completely
prepared.

Come to the wedding." '

Scriptures:

⁵ But they made light of it and went their

G272 – disregard,
neglect, ignore. –
“to not care v. –
to not feel
concern or
interest.”

ways, one to his own farm, another to his

business.

Notes:

‘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. Hopefully you won’t be thrown into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Scriptures:

⁶ And the rest seized his [👑]servants,

treated them spitefully, and killed them. [🔔]

G5195 – “to be hubristic v. – to do or say something offensively disrespectful (to someone) that is outrageously forward or bold.”

Notes:

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.

Scriptures:

7 But when the king[👑] heard *about it*,[👑] he was

furious. And he[👑] sent out his[👑] armies,

destroyed those murderers, and burned up

their city.

Notes:

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.

"When grace begets forgiveness, God is able to accept a sinner. If, however, a person rejects grace, God, according to His own laws, must punish the offender." (Powell, 1986) page 398

Scriptures:

⁸ Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding

Notes:

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.

is ready, but those who were invited were

not worthy.

G514 -

Scriptures:

Isaiah 49:6 - Indeed He says,

'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant

To raise up the tribes of Jacob,

And to restore the preserved ones of Israel;

I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles,

That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'

⁹ Therefore go into the highways, and

Notes:

This is a fulfillment of the prophecy in (Isaiah 49:6).

This is the offering of the gospel of salvation to the Gentiles. It is the same gospel that was offered to the Jews. The gospel is universal (Romans 1:16-17).

as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'

G3745 -

G2147 -

Scriptures:

¹⁰ So those servants went out into the

Notes:

The gospel is for anyone, whether the world sees them as good or bad, the gospel saves them all in the same way.

highways and gathered together all whom

they found, both bad and good. And the

G4190 – wicked,
evil, morally
corrupt.

G18 – one who
does good.

wedding *hall* was filled with guests.

Scriptures:

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.

11 “But when the king came in to see the

guests, he saw a man there who did not have

on a wedding garment.

G1062 -

G1742 -

Notes:

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. Another interpretation is that this man simply wore what was common and every day and did not attempt to wear a garment that was appropriate for the occasion. That would also be seen as disrespectful to the king and to the occasion.

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). 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.

Scriptures:

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.

12 So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you

come in here without a wedding garment?’

And he was speechless.

G5392 -

Notes:

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 tells that this will be the response of everyone who stands before without salvation in Christ (Romans 1:20-21).

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

Scriptures:

13 Then the ^{king} said to the servants, 'Bind

Notes:

'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.

him ^{hand} and foot, take him ^{away}, and cast

him into outer darkness; there will be

G1857 -

G4655 -

7

weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

G2805 -

G1030 - grinding the teeth, a sign of torment and anguish, possibly anger.

Scriptures:

Isaiah 45:22 -

Look to Me, and be saved,

All you ends of the earth!

For I am God, and there is no other.

John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."

G4183 -

G2822 – "invited adj. — denoting someone whose participation or presence has been requested (for something)."

G1588 – elect.

Notes:

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 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.

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