

The Parables of the Kingdom

Matthew 22:1-14 The Parable of the Marriage Feast

How many of you like weddings?

- A) More women than men - Favorite part for the Ladies? What are they talking about after the wedding? The Dresses – Bridesmaids - The Brides dress
- B) Favorite part for the ladies - the clothes the ambiance the decorations
- C) You know what the guys are talking about? THE FOOD! THE SPREAD
- D) I've never had a guy say: Did you see that dress – or did you check out the decorations -
 - 1) Many guys – did you see that spread – do you know what they are serving

Freebie: Those of you maybe getting married – You want to make the guys happy

- A) Part between the wedding and the reception – when the wedding party is taking pictures -

Have you finger food – while the guest are waiting - guys love that

Weddings are great

God likes weddings – really does – He likes that whole picture! Bride and groom – Called Israel His wife

Isaiah 62:5 “As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.”

Jesus first miracle was at a wedding --One thing He was definitely doing was putting his stamp of approval on Marriage – between one man and one woman

He liked those Joyous occasions.

Jesus calls the Church his bride! Betrothed to Him!

- A) What are we waiting for? – Rapture –

- B) Which is the Starting point for the marriage feast of the lamb – Party?

- C) **The Picture to married couples in the Church! “Husbands love your wife as The Church.”** Ephesians 5:25

As we continue our series in the Parables – Today Matthew 22 the Parable of the

Marriage feast!

RD V.1-14

The events of this parable were completely in accordance with normal Jewish customs.

A) When the invitations to a wedding feast, were sent out, **the time was not stated**; **time frame** – Spring –

B) Got closer – they would nail down the week – then the day

Bb) when everything was ready the servants were sent out w/ a final summons to tell the guests to come

C) For a royal wedding such as the one Jesus mentions here, [KINGS SON]

1) The celebration often lasted for several weeks.

D) A royal wedding, of course, would be held in the palace, and the king would spare no expense!

1) So Jesus was picturing the most elaborate celebration imaginable.

Told in 1 Kings – with Solomon – enough loaves daily feed 11,000 pp

A) History records the daily provision of King Cyrus the King of Persia

400 Sheep	300 lambs
150 Oxen {Prime rib	30 Horses {happy
30 deer	400 geese
100 young geese	300 pigeons
600 small fowl	

3750 gallons of wine {those who showed up late – all that was left was horse

75 gallons of milk

75 gallons of sour milk

That is just the meat – not the veggies or other stuff

Daily provision in Cyrus court

Imagine the feast if his son was getting married,

And to be a pre-invited guest to the king's wedding was among the highest honors possible, [A List]

A) Which makes it all the more odd when the actual call came to attend, they were unwilling to come.

B) **The Parable is a Picture**: It is an illustration – and the Primary interpretation is for

Israel

C) **Parable: Not Doctrinal**

Para = to cast

Able – along side

Taking truth about God / about Israel / about the Church –

A) About those who are called to come and receive God's forgiveness and blessing

B) Taking truth about those who come and try to stand in their own righteousness

1) Instead of the righteousness that He provides

C) Those are all doctrinal / biblical truths and He is casting those truths alongside imagery that they would understand

D) **A wedding feast - A feast for a Kings Son**

Israel is a picture of those who are invited to the feast

A) Note it doesn't say they couldn't come – the problem was **they would not come**

John 1:12-13

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

B) He had sent the prophets – inviting come – rejected

C) He sent John the B. – COME – REJECTED

D) Sent other servants – the time is ready – COME

Notice v.5 says – They made light of it

V.7 Is interesting and Possibly Prophetic of what happened to Israel in AD 70 when the Romans came in and destroyed Jerusalem – Judgment for their rejecting of God's Messiah

The result was that the invitation of God went out direct to the highways and the byways;

A) And the people in the highways and the byways stand for the sinners and the Gentiles, who never expected an invitation into the Kingdom.

B) Jesus had already told the religious leaders Matthew 21:31 that had spurned Him **that tax**

collectors and prostitutes would get into the kingdom ahead of them.

So that is the Primary lesson of this parable!

But it does also have more to teach us!

A) Theme: The Kingdom of heaven is like.....

Aa) Noted before and need to realize **when talking** about the Kingdom of heaven Jesus was not referring to heaven itself – He had something broader in mind

B) The Phrases Kingdom of God and Kingdom of heaven – don't show up in the Bible until Matthews Gospel – strictly NT terminology

C) The Kingdom of heaven describes God's intervention from heaven in the affairs of men.

CC) Describing what God is doing in the world – through the coming of His son Jesus Christ.

D) It is the intertwining of that which is supernatural with that which is natural.

My Kingdom is like a Wedding feast! – Party – celebration

Jesus said – **“I have come to bring abundant life to people.”** John 10:10

A) That is the picture God is painting – Christian life is an abundant life - **Not Drudgery / not gloom**

B) Wedding feast was about – Fellowship – close friends – celebration

C) Christian life is a battle – Christian life involves trials and tribulations – but it is also about Celebrations

1) Love that kind of worship – So much going on that is negative in the world – it is good for us to celebrate Jesus!

Abundant life: God invading our world – Love grace – Him being sufficient

A) Those times where I feel like I am at my wits end – the end of my rope -

B) He supplies my need - **Abundant life**

C) Need to get rid of this idea – Christian life is a gloomy life – life that is devoid of Joy –

2nd Lesson: Notice the groups that rejected the invitation.

A) The First group made light of it V.5 – didn't take it very seriously

1st Group was too busy!

A) One guy went to His farm – the other to his business.

B) It wasn't that they were all caught up in carousing and immorality –

1) Their problem – caught up in the busyness of life

It is very easy for a man to be so busy with the things of time that he forgets the things of eternity,

A) To be so preoccupied with the things which are seen that he forgets the things which are unseen,

B) To hear so relentlessly the claims of the world that he cannot hear the soft invitation of the voice of Christ.

C) The tragedy of life is that it is so often the second bests which shut out the bests,

1) That it is things which are good in themselves which shut out the things that are supreme.

D) A man can be so busy making a living that he fails to make a life;

E) He can be so busy with the administration and the organization of life that he forgets life itself.

“What would it profit a man if he were to gain the whole world and lose his soul.”

Matthew 16:26

Better to be the poorest man in heaven than the richest man in Hell

Lesson for us who are believers too!

A) We can still make that same mistake – God's call to service or deeper fellowship

A) Are we at a place in our walks where we need to pray Lord restore unto me the Joy of my salvation

B) Are we at a place where the Lord might say of us like He did to Ephesus –

1) Lots of good things going on – but you have left your first love.

C) If we examine our hearts today in comparison to when we were first saved – **Is the Zeal still there**

The Bible talks about Zeal without Knowledge being not a good thing – sign of immaturity

A) Problem I have seen – is many when they get the knowledge – lose the ZEAL

B) What is needed is a healthy combination of both

1) Knowledge that lets God lead – but a Zeal to follow passionately where He is leading

C) Are we so busy now with our farms – careers – our stuff – to be too focused on the Lord

Don't get me wrong those things have their place those things have an importance

A) The Bible says that we have the personal responsibility of being stewards of those things

B) There is godliness in all of that until it becomes more important – than the Love that we are supposed to have for the Lord

C) Until it becomes more important than the fire and the passion for God – that is supposed to fill our hearts

D) It is then that we start trading that which is good for that which is best

B) **Remember first opportunity to serve – Usher – Yes – doorkeeper in the house of God**

C) Ultimate insult to God – Lord I am too busy for you

1) Settling for 2nd /3rd best / missing out on the supreme!

D) So the first group was busy -

2nd Group was Hostile: Outright antagonistic against God – There are those like that today – Invitation goes out – Don't talk to me about that Jesus stuff –

A) They get angry – hostile – still places in the world – where God's saints are being persecuted big time.

B) Hate the light – deeds are evil!

Next lesson – We saw last time - The Kings patience and grace.

A) Even though the initial response of those invited was to not take the invite seriously - which was an incredible insult – to a monarch

B) The King sent the servants out again! Make sure they know the details

C) It is the picture of God who continues to knock on the hearts of men who reject His invitations.

V.8 Those invited were not worthy – Why?

A) It wasn't sin – wasn't a moral issue – no the king is going to take care of all that

B) **What makes them not worthy** – because they rejected the invitation

C) **They didn't respond to the invitation** – that is the only thing that made them unworthy

1) They refused to respond to the invitation to receive His son – receive His provision and forgiveness

D) What kept them from coming was their will

God is still inviting – whosoever will –may Come!

A) Salvation is not a matter of worthiness – never has been – it is a matter of grace

B) None worthy – flesh – filthy rags

1) God still issues the invitation

Bb) He continues to Knock – However God tells us in His word – **“My spirit will not strive forever with man”** Genesis 6:3

Psalm 103:8-9

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever.”

Classic example: Pharaoh hardened his heart - each time a stronger word is used {multiple chances

A) He starts resistant – grows to being stiff – grows more – Like stone –

B) Finally it says – So God hardened Pharaoh's heart

1) Idea – He met Pharaoh in his hardenedness

C) God will do that –Picture here – the King says enough – Sends his soldiers to wipe them out

D) He has Armies – the Lord of host – the Lord of armies

1) Exodus 15:3 **The Lord is a man of war.**

E) **Letter about Airsoft** – Don't emasculate our boys

D) Not saying – all need to be into shooting guns

Aaron with His sisters – Don't mess –

A) Strong – temper – get them because I can't

Next lesson: The far reaching extent of God's grace – Go out into the highways and the byways as many as you can find – good and bad

A) God extends His invitation for fellowship far and wide – every tribe tongue nation /background

B) Good and the Bad/ **Boy scouts to hells angels** – He calls – He invites – He sent His son to die for us all

C) He invites us to the feast - to the celebration

The plan was for them to go everywhere and find everyone they could and **invite** them to come.

That is precisely what Jesus commanded in the Great Commission: “ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ” (Matthew 28:19).

A) Take the invitation to all pp – all parts of the world

Next lesson: The Kings provision.

A) Now We can be certain that those rounded up from the streets had no wedding clothes.

B) Customary for a King to Provide Wedding garments

C) God has provided for our wedding garments

Doctrinally we are the Bride

A) But in the Story we are those who are invited to the feast

B) God is the Wealthy King would provide the wedding garments

D) Garments of Salvation:

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.

Isaiah 61:10

Problem: There is a man at the feast who is not dressed in the provided wedding garment

A) The king "said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?'"

B) The way the question was framed – indicates the man had made a predetermined decision not to wear what was provided

C) Lit. How is it that you thought you didn't need the garment I provided?

This man pictures the man who thinks he can stand in God's presence on his own merit in his own righteousness

A) I don't need another coat the one I have on is fine

**B) People who are religious –
I am a good person -
Righteousness is as filthy rags**

C) The person who insists that he wants to be a Christian, yet on his own terms.

1) I will come my own way – own terms

D) Jesus makes it very clear, we do not make terms with the eternal King!

1) We come to Him through the provisions He has made for us in His Son - or we do not come at all.

Like this man they will be speechless

A) Unless you have been clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, you will not have a part in God's kingdom.

B) No excuse will work before the presence of Him who sees and knows all.

Hebrews 4:13

“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

C) The man's arrogance was short-lived. When, as the king knew in advance, the man could not excuse himself, **the king said to the servants, "Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."**

D) The man was permanently expelled from the presence of the king and of the king's people into the outer darkness.

V.13 Takes us from Parable to reality

That is how the Bible describes Hell

C) Place of torment and great regret and remorse, and, with everyone else **in that place**, he would experience perpetual **weeping and gnashing of teeth**.

Many are THE CALLED – but few are chosen

A) Call goes out to many – but few respond is the idea

Matthew 7:13-14

"Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

I like weddings – wedding receptions –like most guys I am interested what is on the menu

A) Imagine the feast of the King of Kings – it will put Cyrus to shame

B) Last few days - 5 lbs - Shanti cheese cake

1) Eat and not get fat

C) Imagine the company – Spurgeon – Campbell Morgan

1) David – Abe – Moses – Paul –

I know there is pain now – but glory is ahead of us

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Guys it is way closer than when we first believed – does that still excite us – or are we so

caught up in our own worlds – own stuff – not as excited

The invitation is out there – will you respond