

## PARABLE OF THE WEDDING BANQUET

Text: Matthew 22:1-14

**Key Word:** Feast

**Key Thought:** Are You Prepared to Attend the Feast?

There comes a point in every nation, in every Church and in every person's life when they are confronted with their attitude about God's requirements or standards for His people. It is one thing to hear the invitation that God gives and understand it; while it is quite another to prepare ourselves to receive it.

The power of this parable builds upon the heels of the previous one, especially in the words,

*"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit."*

*Matthew 21:43*

The KJV tells us that Jesus was answering them (vs 1). Yet there doesn't seem to be any question recorded. **Jesus used this parable to answer the attitude of their stubborn hearts and the doubts within their minds.** The 2 previous parables dealt with the **responsibility** placed upon God's people. This parable deals with the **privilege** of being part of God's rich blessings.

**The wedding is NOT the main theme of this parable. The Feast is!** Jesus was illustrating to His people the full benefits of the Gospel using a symbol of the feast. It included a menu of exceedingly great and precious promises; access to the Throne of God; the comforting Holy Spirit; and the full assurance of eternal life, just to mention a few of its blessings.

This inconceivable feast with delights beyond what we could ever imagine has been made ready for thousands of years. **It will find its culmination at the great feast called, "*The Marriage Supper of the Lamb.*"**

This parable spans a time in history from the beginning of Jesus' ministry up to our present day. Three invitations are sent out. **[What Do These Invitations Represent?](#)**

- I. THE FIRST INVITATION (Matthew 22:1-3)**
- II. THE SECOND INVITATION (Matthew 22:4-7)**
- III. THE THIRD INVITATION (Matthew 22:8-14)**

## I. THE FIRST INVITATION (Matthew 22:1-3)

*"He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come."*

*Matthew 22:3*

Every Oriental marriage takes place in stages. At the time of the betrothal an announcement is sent to the friends of the bridegroom to inform them of the upcoming marriage. This invitation would not deal with the actual day and hour of the wedding but simply an invitation to see whether their friends would be willing to come.

**These people refused to come even before receiving the second invitation.**

When Jesus began His earthly ministry, His life was an open invitation to the nation of Israel to "come and dine, the Master calleth, come and dine." They simply refused to come.

After Jesus had spoken the 7 parables in Matthew 13, He went to Nazareth and began teaching in the synagogue. They were amazed at the depth of His words and actions. Yet they could not get beyond the natural plane of their thinking. After all, wasn't He simply the son of a common carpenter?

*"And they took offense at him...  
58. And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith."*

*Matthew 13:57,58*

Over and over in Scripture we see the refusal of the people of Israel to accept our Lord's invitation because of the mis-guidance of their spiritual leadership. The only response that Jesus and His servants received was an immediate refusal without seriously considering the offer before them.

**Their refusal did not affect the enthusiasm that God had towards the culmination of the wedding of His Son.** One invitation had been disregarded, but it was time to send forth another one.

## II. THE SECOND INVITATION (Matthew 22:4-7)

It was customary for another invitation to be sent out 12 months after the time of the betrothal. This would give the guests an abundant amount of time to prepare for the wedding banquet. This invitation would contain further details about the banquet (i.e. - time, place, dress, billeting, gifts etc.). **The call of the initial invitation was renewed.**

After the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord, He sent out 12 disciples whom He called apostles. These men became His main servants. Isn't it interesting that Jewish customs would send this second invitation 12 months after the first. I don't believe that it is coincidence that Jesus choose 12 apostles.

Along with these apostles were many other servants. They devoted their lives to proclaim the Gospel and invited as many as would come to the Wedding Banquet. **The response was both indifferent AND some became hostile.**

A response of indifference is probably the most difficult to handle. The things that often keep us from God's invitation are not always necessarily bad. **These people were not going off in drunkenness and violence. They simply went off to take care of the demands of normal life.**

"It is very easy for a man to be so busy with the **things of time** that he forgets the **things of eternity**, to be so preoccupied with the **things which are seen** that he forgets the **things which are unseen**, to hear so insistently the claims of the world that he cannot hear the soft invitation of the voice of Christ."

William Barclay  
"Gospel of Matthew"  
p. 268

"The tragedy of life is that it is so often the second bests which shut out the best, that is the things which are good in themselves which shut out the things which are supreme. **A man can be so busy making a living that he fails to make a life; he can be so busy with the administration and the organization of life that he forgets life itself.**"

William Barclay  
ibid p. 268

## II. THE SECOND INVITATION (Matthew 22:4-7) (Contd.)

\*\*\* In the Jewish Midrash is found a very similar parable. The King also invites guests to his feast without telling them the exact time. The wise quickly adorn themselves, and sit at the door of the palace. They know that the palace is always ready to welcome guests.

The king along with the invitation tells the guests to wash, anoint and dress in festive garments. But the foolish ones think that there is still a great deal of time and the king is simply overreacting.

These foolish ones return; **the mason to his lime; the potter to his clay; the smith to his furnace; the fuller to his dye.** At that point the next invitation is sent. Some are ready; many are not. \*\*\*

It is one thing to be unprepared it is quite another to seize, mistreat and kill the king's servants. Yet this is exactly what they did to the apostles and the disciples of Christ. The king was as angry as he could be.

*"But they paid no attention and went off - one to his field, another to his business.*

*6. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them.*

*7. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city."*

*Matthew 22:5-7*

In 70 AD Jerusalem was destroyed by the armies of Rome under the leadership of Titus. The Temple was ransacked and burned. The Holy City was completely destroyed with not one stone left upon another in the Temple area. It was like a plough had been drawn through the city. Total disaster came upon those who refused to accept the king's invitation.

**It's a terrible thing to mistreat God's servants who uphold the Word of God.** Other guests were now to be sent for during the third and final invitation.

### III. THE THIRD INVITATION (Matthew 22:8-14)

This third invitation spans the time from the destruction of Jerusalem to the consummation of this age. For almost 2,000 years the Church has been fulfilling this part of the parable.

*"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.  
9. Go to the street corners (highways - KJV) and invite to the banquet anyone you find.  
10. So the servants went into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests."*

*Matthew 22:8-10*

The book of Acts clearly shows us that geographical and racial barriers were no hindrance for the Holy Spirit to cross. None of these guests deserved what they were receiving. It was simply the result of a wide-armed, open-hearted, kind and loving King. We are privileged to live in a time when the grace of God is being poured out over our entire world. **The "good and bad" are able to enter to fill the banquet hall. The blessings of God are available to all who will come.**

**But some still attempt to enter unchanged or unprepared.** The church is becoming full of people who are not properly dressed (spiritually) for the wedding.

*"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes."*

*Matthew 22:11*

There was no excuse for this. Ample time had been given for change to take place. **God is speaking in the Church today for everyone to be changed.** It's time to put on the robes of righteousness. No longer can the Church tarry. The third invitation is truly about to be sent forth. **The first call sounded forth at Pentecost; almost 2 millenniums have passed with a second invitation to usher it in; the third is the latter rain that will usher it out.** God is about to do (and is already doing) a great and mighty work upon the earth! **There is no time for slackness.**

The garment was not a part of the man's ordinary clothing, but rather became a sign of his loyalty to the king. **Without it he was proving his rebellion to the known will of the king. It required a decision and an action to be identified with the King.**

### III. THE THIRD INVITATION (Matthew 22:8-14) (Contd.)

*"'Friend', he asked, 'how did you get here (not having) without wedding clothes?' the man was speechless (lit -gagged, muzzled)."*

*Matthew 22:12*

The word used to describe the man *"not having"* indicated very clearly that the man definitely chose to enter without the required garment. **It was a deliberate act of rebellion. Rebellion to the known will of God is becoming the greatest curse to our nation.** Many have determined not to do what God is telling them to do. There are people who want to partake in the blessings of the King but choose to do it with their own covering.

There will be no words left for those who continue to voice their rebellion on the day the King enters.

\*\*\* D. L. Moody was speaking last century in London, England on this passage. He was captivated by the words of Jesus when he said ***"Many are called, but few are chosen."***

Sitting on the platform was one of the great theologians of his day known as Dr. L. Moody stopped and asked, *"Hold on, what does this mean?"*

He then turned to the great teacher and said, *"I would like to read it like this, 'Many are called, but few are choice.'"*

Dr. L. replied, *"You are right Mr. Moody. That is the whole intention of it."* \*\*\*

**The determining factor of God's choice is our obedience to His known will.** There is no place for excuses before God.

There is no time left for anything but pure obedience to God. Listen to the voice of the Spirit of God before its too late. Will disobedience keep you from being part of God's kingdom? YES IT WILL!

*"Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14. For many are invited, but few are chosen'"*

*Matthew 22:13,14*

### III. THE THIRD INVITATION (Matthew 22:8-14) (Contd.)

According to proper and full translation of this text, we could rightly read,

Many are called out of this world by God to partake of the Gospel feast, but few out of the world - not, out of the called - are chosen by God to partake of it.

The more scars we bear for standing up for righteousness, the more we can understand the isolation which God is requiring of His Church. The greatest pain for most will not be the suffering in hell but rather the painful realization of the precious gift they have missed because of their rebellion.

Those who partake of the wedding banquet will ultimately enjoy an even richer blessing at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. **Lets not miss it for the world!**

C:\My Documents\WPWin(X9)\Sermons.2019\Parables\Matthew 22\_1.14.wpd

Date: Aug 25/19

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: To Know Him - G

## PARABLE OF THE WEDDING BANQUET

**Text: Matthew 22:1-14**

**Key Word:** Feast

**Key Thought:** Are You Prepared to Attend the Feast?

The power of this parable builds upon the heels of the previous one, especially in the words,

*"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit."*

*Matthew 21:43*

### What Do These Invitations Represent?

**I. THE FIRST INVITATION (Matthew 22:1-3) - *Matthew 22:3; Matthew 13:57,58***

**II. THE SECOND INVITATION (Matthew 22:4-7) - *Matthew 22:5-7***

**III. THE THIRD INVITATION ((Matthew 22:8-14) - *Matthew 22:8-10; Matthew 22:11; Matthew 22:12; Matthew 22:13,14***