

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ
Days of Challenge 3: The Parable of the Marriage of the King's Son

Last time...the morning of the 3rd day of the Final Week continued

In the conversation/confrontation, Jesus continued to respond to the challenge of His authority by the chief priests, scribes, and elders...
in parable form – the Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen

With no way to escape Jesus' teaching point and with all eyes on them, the religious leaders correctly concluded the parable...condemning themselves as they did so
Humiliated 3 times in this conversation-gone-wrong-for-them, the chief priests, scribes, elders, and Pharisees left Jesus and went their own way (Mark 12:12)

This time...the 3rd day of the Final Week continues

Jesus continues teaching...in parable form...the people
The Parable of the Marriage of the King's Son...another prophetic parable

We will be in Matt 22, the only Gospel that records this teaching

v1-3 again by parables...king...son...servants...them:

This parable follows on the heels of the Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen
The audience is different, however – the people vs the religious leaders

The topic is mentioned right up front: the kingdom of heaven
The kingdom of heaven is likened to the marriage of a king's son

There are players in this parable similar to those in the previous one, so it is reasonable to interpret similarly/consistently

- The King is God the Father...as He was the Householder
- The King's Son (Heir) is Jesus Christ...as He was the Son (Heir) of the Householder
- The King's servants are the prophets...as they were the servants of the Householder

However, rather than husbandmen, the parable has “them that were bidden to the wedding”

The religious leaders are gone, the people remain
Those invited/called/bidden to the wedding of the king's son are...
the people

And right up front, the people should be uneasy and “on notice”

Jewish wedding:

- A joyous occasion/celebration
- The father of the bridegroom takes care of everything
- The father sends out the invitations when the wedding is announced but the invited guests are not summoned to come to the wedding until it is “Go Time”
- Festive apparel was expected of guests
- It is “Go Time” for the wedding only when the father has everything ready and says it is “Go Time”

In this parable, the father of the bridegroom is the king

Which means...

Jesus continues to respond to the religious leaders’ challenge of His authority and Who gave it to Him

1. His authority?

The Son of the King of the kingdom of heaven...
the Son of God

2. Who gave the authority to Him?

The King, His Father...God the Father

In the parable, it is “Go Time”

The king sends his servants to the invited guests, to summon them to his son’s wedding

A wedding was a time of joyful celebration

The wedding of the King’s Son, all the more so!

But...the invited guests (subjects of the king) would not come!

Imagine the insult to the king!

Imagine the brazen impudence and insolence of the people/guests!

Imagine how uncomfortable the people hearing Jesus teach are feeling right now

v4-6 other servants...made light of...entreated spitefully...slew:

The disrespected and undoubtedly offended king mercifully sends other servants with another notification to the invited guests that everything is ready – Now is the time to come to the wedding of the king's son

But...they, the people

- made light of/did not regard/did not reverence/did not care/
were negligent
 - the king? Yes
 - the king's son? Yes
 - the marriage of the king's son? Yes
 - their invitation to such an honorable and joyous event? Yes
- went their ways
 - had more important things to do
 - went about their lives, whether in the country or in the city
 - they were too busy or had no interest
- some of them even took offense and rebelled against the king and his son by seizing/violently abusing and killing the king's servants

The treatment of the servants, of both the householder and the king, is the same

v7 wroth...armies...destroyed...burned:

As the Householder was rightly enraged at the wicked husbandmen,
so is the king at the people/invited guests

As the householder will miserably destroy those wicked men,
so the king

- sends his armies..."hosts" of the LORD of hosts
- destroy the murderers
- burn their city...Jerusalem (as prophesied by Jesus during the Triumphal Entry in Luke 19:41-44, and will again in Matt 24)

Now imagine the uneasiness of the people listening to Jesus!

With

- His question regarding the baptism of John
- The parable of the 2 Sons
- The parable of the Wicked Husbandmen

the chief priests, scribes, elders, and Pharisees were squarely in Jesus' sight

Now who is?!

Think about the multitude of people listening to Jesus teach in the Temple on this
3rd day of His Final Week

They rejoiced with Him at His Triumphal Entry at the beginning of the week
They will cry, “Crucify Him!” by the end of the week

In the parable, what will become of the wedding, into which the father/king has
invested so much effort and resources, since the invited guests brought the
wrath of the king upon themselves?

v8-9 wedding is ready...not worthy...into the highways:

The king has undertaken extensive preparations for his son’s wedding.
Everything is ready

But the fact that the invited guests were not worthy of participating in his son’s
wedding does NOT mean the wedding is off!

The King is ready

The Son/Bridegroom is ready

The Bride is ready

There is going to be a wedding!!!!

All that is missing are guests/eyewitnesses to share the king’s joy

So the king dispatches servants to go out into the highways where there are many
travelers, strangers not of his nation...Gentiles

Imagine what Jesus’ audience is thinking and feeling?!

The servants are told to invite whoever would to come to the wedding to share
His joy

Invitations without limit

Q: Who are these servants?

Hold that thought

v10-13 bad and good...wedding garment...speechless...outer darkness:

The servants faithfully went to the highways and invited a whole slew of people!

They rounded up as many as they found...both bad and good...and filled the
wedding with guests

When the king arrives at the wedding to behold all the guests who accepted his
invitation, he saw a man not wearing a wedding garment
i.e. not wearing suitable/expected attire for this august and glorious
occasion

Is this man “bad” or “good”?

Bad

He wore what he wanted to wear, not what he was needful to wear

Q: Why would the servants invite and bring bad/degenerate strangers?
The servants did not see that the man was inappropriately dressed?

A: It was given to them to invite whosoever would come (v9),
it was not given to them to ”judge” whosoever would come

The servants cannot see the man as the king does, for “bad” is an
inward condition (of the heart) in the kingdom of heaven

The acceptable/righteous garment is within (Luke 17:20-21) and only
the king can see the inner man

The man had no regard for the king, the son, the occasion, the invitation, or
himself (his appearance to the king)

In so doing, he disrespected the king and his son, and condemned himself

The king does not let the affront slide

“Friend (gracious, my heart toward you), how could you have the audacity
to come here dressed like that, having no respect for me or my
son?”

The ill-dressed man is...speechless, without excuse

He is not worthy of attending the wedding of the king’s son any more than were
the original invited guests who blew off their king

The man, a wedding crasher, is

- bound hand and foot...there is no escape
- cast into outer darkness (absolute void of light) where there is
weeping/lamenting and gnashing/grinding of teeth

The uneasiness of the people listening to Jesus teach is probably increasing

v14 many are called...few are chosen:

The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king that made a marriage for his son

Many are called...invited

Few are chosen...accept the invitation and come in proper attire

Breath-taking!!!

The Parable of the Marriage of the King's Son:

The King is God the Father

The King's Son is God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ

The invited but unworthy guests are all Jews that rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah

Rom 9:1-8

Who is the (unmentioned) Bride of the Son?

Gen 24

Ruth

John 3:28-29 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

2 Cor 11:2 I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ

Who are the servants of the king?

- To the invited guests – the OT prophets (until John the Baptist) and lastly The Prophet (as in the Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen)
- To the highways, to the strangers/Gentiles
 1. The Body of Christ (starting in Acts 2, including us) until snatched off the earth (John 14:1-3 with 1 Thes 4:13-18)
 2. The 2 Witnesses until they are killed by the counterfeit son (Rev 11)
 3. The 144,000 (12,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel, Rev 7, Rev 14)

Who are the guests from the highways (**NOT** the Bride)?

Fruit of the 2 Witnesses and the 144,000 (Israel as witness of Christ on earth)

Rev 4:1

The Rapture...Body of Christ is Bride

Rev 6:9-11

Rev 7:9-17

What is proper attire for the wedding of the King's Son?

White linen, the righteousness/merit/works of the Son

Rev 6:11 white robes were given unto every one of them

Rev 7:14 white in the blood of the Lamb

1 Cor 1:29-31 no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Phil 3:8-11 v9...faith **OF** Christ, the righteousness which is **OF** God

Our faith is

1. a gift (Eph 2:8-9)
2. a measure of Jesus' faith (Rom 12:3, Heb 12:2)
3. smaller than a mustard seed (Matt 17:20)
4. must be increased (Luke 17:5-6)
5. imperfect, not 100% doubt-free (Mark 9:23-24, Luke 8:22-25)
6. Jesus prays that it fail not (Luke 22:32)
7. being perfected in Christ (Col 1:27-28)

“faith of Christ” (sound doctrine)

vs

“faith in Christ” (our faith, “of us”, opens the door to steal God’s glory)

Rev 19:5-9 with 1 Cor 1:30

Is 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels.

Attire provided by the King

What is improper attire?

Defiled garments, our righteousness (Is 64:6, Rev 3:4)
Strange apparel (Zeph 1:8); I will wear what I want to wear!

Self-righteousness

Salvation by my works/merit (all religions)
“I did it my way” (defiant independence)

How could a person come to this wedding in improper attire?

They heard and believed a false gospel about a false Christ
LDS and JW's and other “Christian” cults
The Prosperity Gospel
The Love Gospel
God is love and loves everybody
So everybody goes to heaven and there is no hell
(Therefore, no need for repentance of sin, no need for a Savior)
The Social Gospel (man-centered vs Christ-centered)
Those that do not endure sound doctrine but after their own lusts heap unto themselves teachers, having itching ears, that will turn their ears away from the truth turn them to fables

Where are the unworthy and the improperly attired cast?

Into...hell, then the Lake of Fire

Matt 8:10-12 **Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth**

Matt 13:42, 50	furnace of fire where wailing and gnashing
Matt 24:51	evil servant
Matt 25:30	unprofitable servant

Hell, a very real place, is a place of torment, NOT of a party with one's friends!

What about the armies of the King destroying the murderers that rejected His invitation to come?

- a. Romans in 70 AD
- b. Rev 19:11-16

What about the separation of the bad from the good?

- Rev 20:11-15...were all who appear before God will be
- guilty
 - speechless

When is the Marriage of the King's Son?

Yet future to us

Application

Many are called...to believe/trust in Jesus Christ the Son of God

John 3:16

1 Tim 2:4

2 Peter 3:9

Few are chosen/selected/elect...do believe/trust in Jesus Christ the Son of God

The King selects based on every person's selection regarding Him, Son, invitation

He knows every person's choice, He makes NO MAN'S choice

Where do we individually want to be in this parable (for all of us are!)?

The choice is ours!

1. The (unmentioned but necessary) Bride

Do I know that Jesus will say to me, "You're gonna like the way you look, I guarantee it."

Am I suitably attired...this very minute...for the marriage of the King's Son?

2. A servant sent to the highways to invite whosoever will come

Faithful to speak the King's invitation to as many as I shall find

3. A guest, properly attired

Properly attired AFTER the Bride is snatched off the earth

Because today is NOT the day of salvation (2 Cor 6:2) and you would rather play with fire by accepting the invitation during a time of trouble such as the world has never seen

4. A guest, not properly attired

A wedding crasher clearly seen by the King and cast into hell

How many people come to church (nearly) every week and sing the songs and listen to the message (be it God's or be it man's)... but are no different on the inside than the day they were born, living their lives on their terms vs God's terms?

The danger to false teachers and false prophets and those who follow them is as great as it was to the Pharisees and those who followed them

5. An uncaring, uninterested, disrespectful, irreverent citizen of the world to whom the King's armies come and destroy

If your choice is #1 and #2 (believer dressed in white linen), the exhortation of the Lord in His Word is to be diligent, never careless or negligent with the riches of Christ

Col 3:1-16

2 Peter 3:14-18

2 Peter 1:4-12

If your choice is #3 or #4 or #5 (unbeliever dressed in filthy rags), the exhortation of the Lord in His Word is to

- a. Look in the mirror! (of the Word of God)
- b. Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!
- c. Consider the end of the matter and chose wisely today

Rev 22:12 *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be*

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely