

Save the Date!

Matthew 22: 1-14

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Read Matthew 22:1-14 several times so you can retell it in your own words.

To whom is Jesus responding in telling this parable? How would you describe the growing tension? (Matthew 21:23, 45-46)

In this parable, Jesus is illustrating the penalty for rejecting God's invitation into His kingdom. Who do the main characters represent? The king; the king's son, those invited.

What is the invitation that Jesus illustrates in the story?

One group chose to insult the king and his son by simply ignoring him. What diverted my attention from God's kingdom this week? "How shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3)

Others repaid the king's kindness and generosity with open rebellion. What choices show that I despise and oppose God?

God is angry at those who reject His gracious invitation for any reason. What excuses do people use today to reject Him? What is the fate of all those who reject Him? (Rev 20:15)

The King invited everyone. He accepted his guests in any condition, but He expected them to change into his provided wedding clothes. Read Isaiah 61:10; 64:6 and Revelation 19:8. Of what are the wedding clothes a picture?

Each person must exchange his self-righteousness (street clothes) for Jesus Christ's true righteousness (wedding clothes). What happens to people who think their own righteousness is good enough for God?

God wants heaven full; we are to "go out and compel them to come in" (Luke 14:23). How compelling is your invitation?

Conclusion: "Many are invited" (whosoever will may come - Revelation 22:17b)," but few are chosen" (chosen before the foundation of the world - Ephesians 1:4). People have struggled to reconcile the sovereignty of God with the free will of man ever since God revealed both truths. Wherever the balance falls between these two truths, have you responded to God's gracious invitation to celebrate with Him forever? "Come, everything is ready!" (Lk 14:17) No excuses. Are you ready?