

**THEME: THE PARABLES OF JESUS**  
**TOPIC: THE WEDDING FEAST**  
**TEXT: MATTHEW 22:1-14; ACTS 13:46**

## **INTRODUCTION**

We come to the third of three parables Jesus told when challenged by the religious leaders in the temple during His last week. In "**The Wedding Feast**", the wickedness and rebelliousness of the religious leaders is even more vividly described.

In "**The Wedding Feast**", the Lord is revealing Himself and the nature of their rejection more clearly than He did in the previous parable.

- a. There He was indeed the son; but here He is a 'royal son'.
- b. There they were rejecting what they rightfully owed by way of contract; but here they are rejecting kindness which had been graciously offered to them!

In this parable, we also see an expansion of the element of Divine Judgment.

- a. The previous parable described judgment upon Israel for rejecting God's Son
- b. So does this parable, but it also describes judgment upon those who have accepted the King's invitation, yet not in the way it was intended to be received!

## **I. THE PARABLE ANALYZED**

### **A. AN INVITATION SPURNED (Matthew 22: 1-10)**

1. The kingdom of heaven is likened to a wedding feast - **Matthew 22: 1-2**
  - a. Isaiah had used the figure of a feast to prophecy of the Messianic age – **Isaiah 25:6**
  - b. The Book of Revelation describes a future marriage of the Lamb and His Bride –

#### **Revelation 19:7**

2. And yet the invitation is spurned...
  - a. By those indifferent – **Matthew 22:3-5**
  - b. By those rebellious – **Matthew 22:6**-- Jesus may have reference here to the Jewish nation, as He did in the parable of "**The**

#### **Wicked Vinedressers" – Matthew 21: 33-46**

3. The King's furious reaction - **Matthew 22:7**
  - a. Those who had so callously rejected His invitation, abused His servants, are themselves destroyed.
  - b. Many understand this to be a prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem, which occurred in 70 A. D. – **Luke 19:41-44**

4. The invitation is extended to others - **Matthew 22:8-10**

- a. As in the parable of "**The Wicked Vinedressers**", the opportunity to enjoy the blessings of the kingdom of God is extended to others - **Matthew 21:43**
- b. This has reference to the offer of the gospel and the kingdom to the Gentiles – also

#### **Matthew 8:5-12**

### **B. A GUEST IMPROPERLY ATTIRE (Matthew 22: 11-14)**

1. Without a wedding garment - **Matthew 22:11-12**
  - a. It was customary for the hosts to provide their guests with suitable apparel.
  - b. To not wear the provided garment showed a lack of respect and appreciation
  - c. No real excuse could be offered for not wearing one ("he was speechless")
2. The King's furious reaction – **Matthew 22:13**
  - a. The seriousness of the insult is seen in the reaction of the king

- b. The punishment described is similar to that found in other parables – **Matt. 13:42, 50**
- 3. Jesus' conclusion – **Matthew 22:14**
  - a. This summarizes the main point of the entire parable
  - b. The invitation (call) of God is extended to many, but few receive it in such a way to be among the "chosen"

This parable was clearly told in response to the rejection of the King's Son and His Kingdom by the Jewish nation. However, elements of the parable apply to us as well, for the invitation to attend "**The Wedding Feast**" is still being offered through the call of the Gospel!

## **II. THE PARABLE APPLIED**

### **A. HAVE YOU SPURNED THE FATHER'S INVITATION?**

- 1. **Through indifference?**
  - a. Many people do not know God because of a lack of interest
  - b. Yet God has so ordered the affairs of life to encourage faith and interest in Him - **Acts 17:26-27; Romans 1:20; 1 Timothy 2: 3-4**
  - c. For this reason, even those who through indifference do not know God and obey the gospel will be condemned – **2 Thessalonians 1: 7-10.**
- 2. **Through rebelliousness?**
  - a. There are many who know full well the Father's invitation.
  - b. But for whatever reason they rebel against it.
  - c. In so doing, they despise the riches of God's grace and store up for themselves God's righteous indignation – **Romans 2:4-11**

## **CONCLUSION**

We have truly been blessed to be given the opportunity to receive the Father's invitation to the wedding feast of His Son!

But we learn from Jesus and His parables that the "kingdom of heaven" is for those who thankfully and properly receive the grace God offers.

The example of the nation of Israel should serve as a warning to all, both Jew and Gentile, that while God's call of the gospel is open to all, the saying of Jesus remains true.

**"For many are called, but few are chosen."** You have been called, but will you be chosen?