

THEME: THE PARABLES OF JESUS
TOPIC: THE WEDDING FEAST 2
TEXT: MATTHEW 22:1-14; ACTS 13:46

INTRODUCTION

This week we continue our study of the third of three parables Jesus told when challenged by the religious leaders in the temple during His last week **"The Wedding Feast"**.

We will start by having a quick overview of the **"The Parable Being Analysed"** followed by a review of the **"Parable Being Applied"**. After which we will then focus on the question of whether we are well **"Attired for the Wedding"**.

We learnt that in **"The Wedding Feast"**, the Lord is revealing Himself and the nature of their rejection more clearly than He did in the previous parables. We also saw an expansion of the element of Divine Judgment.

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**
2. And yet the invitation is spurned.
3. The King's furious reaction – **Matthew 22:7**
4. The invitation is extended to others – **Matthew 22:8-10**

B. A GUEST IMPROPERLY ATTIRED (Matthew 22: 11-14)

1. Without a wedding garment – **Matthew 22:11-12**
2. The King's furious reaction – **Matthew 22:13**
3. Jesus' conclusion – **Matthew 22:14**

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 Thessalonian 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 riches of God's grace and store up for themselves God's righteous indignation – **Romans 2:4-11**

B. ARE YOU ATTIRED FOR THE WEDDING?

1. **Many seek to attend the "wedding" in apparel of their own choosing**
 - a. Some, not knowing the righteousness of God, have sought to establish their own – **Romans 10:1-3.**

b. People do this today, when they expect salvation on terms different than those taught in the gospel

- E.g., trying to obtain salvation based upon their own good works
- E.g., trying to obtain salvation on faith without repentance and obedience

2. We must be willing to put on the "apparel" that God gives us:

a. We must "put on" Jesus Christ!

- First and foremost this involves clothing ourselves with Christ
- Which Paul explains takes place in baptism – **Galatians 3:26-27**
-- Have you put Christ on in baptism?

b. We must "put on" the new man!

- Paul applies the figure of putting on a garment to the development of Christian conduct and character – **Colossians 3:5-14**
- Do we wish to be found at the wedding feast adorned with the apparel of the "old man with his deeds"?
-- Are you putting off the "old man", and putting on the "new man"?

c. We must "put on" righteous deeds!

- John described the preparation for glorious wedding of the Lamb and His bride – **Revelations 19:6-9.**
- We understand that the "righteous acts of the saints" are not done to merit salvation - **Titus 3:4-5.**
- They are done to bring honour to God, and therefore we are to be ever ready and zealous to do good works – **Matthew 5:16; Titus 3:1, 8, 14.**
-- Are you doing what you can to "beautify" the wedding garment of the bride?

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 that God has to offer.

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 still remains true.

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