

Matthew 22:1-14 NIV

## The Parable of the Wedding Reception

Sunday, October 12 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, October 13 at 7 PM  
18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2014

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: As we enter into Matthew chapter 22, it is Holy Week – so, *very soon*, Jesus will be •arrested, •tried, and •crucified; then He will seal His victory over †sin, †death, and †the devil, *by laying down His life for us and for everyone!*

<sup>1</sup> **Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying:** <sup>2</sup> **“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.”** // Let’s understand that → God the Father is the king, → Jesus is His Son—*the Bridegroom*, and → the Church—*thus all true believers*, are the bride.

Furthermore, a day is coming when the Father will say to Jesus: “Son, today the time has come, so go, ♦receive your bride, ♦bring her back to our house, and ♦we will rejoice together at the wedding banquet!

1. **God’s Chosen People:** Earlier God’s chosen people had received a general invitation. Now is the time for them to come! <sup>3</sup> **“He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.”** <sup>4</sup> **Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’”** // **“The invitation of the King was both a great honor—and a sovereign command (one does not refuse the King).”** (bible.org) All should *gladly* and *immediately* respond!

a. The response of many Jews:

- i. <sup>5</sup> **“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business.”** // They had drifted so far from their relationship with God that they chose their work☹ over God’s gift of salvation!
- ii. <sup>6</sup> **“The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them.”** // Stephen preached: Your fathers “killed [the prophets] who announced...the coming of the Righteous One.” (Acts 7:52 ESV)

b. The response of God: <sup>7</sup> **“The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.”** // Think back to A.D. 70; God permitted the Roman army to conquer and burn the city of Jerusalem. **“Josephus claims that 1.1 million people were killed during the siege...”**<sup>1</sup>

2. **God Invites the Gentiles:** <sup>8</sup> **“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.’** <sup>9</sup> **Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’** <sup>10</sup> **So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.”** // So the “good and bad” point to the visible Church which includes **“hypocrites and sincere believers.”** (Kretzmann, 123)

a. Wedding clothes are essential: <sup>11</sup> **“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a**

<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege\\_of\\_Jerusalem\\_\(AD\\_70\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Jerusalem_(AD_70))

man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.<sup>12</sup> ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless.” // Let’s understand that “the guests of Oriental kings were *at all times... provided with festal garments...*” (Kretzmann, 122) So for anyone to be “without wedding clothes” meant that such a person was offered such clothes *but he rejected them!* Even today God is offering everyone, *through His Son*, the necessary wedding clothes – *the very righteousness we need to attend the great wedding feast*; therefore, **let us gladly receive!**

- b. The punishment is eternal:<sup>13</sup> “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’” // Dr. Kretzmann wrote: “...the insult to the love of God will be properly punished when every person that puts his trust in his own merit and works will be cast into the dungeon of hell with its everlasting torments.” (123)

**Conclusion**:<sup>14</sup> “For many are invited, but few are chosen [ἐκλεκτοί].” Or we could say: All are invited—*since God desires all to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4)*, but few are elected. What does that mean? Here are some excerpts from A Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod:

1. “By the election of grace we mean this truth, that all those who by the grace of God alone, for Christ's sake, through the means of grace, are brought to faith, are justified, sanctified, and preserved in faith here in time...”

2. “...we reject as an anti-Scriptural error the doctrine that not alone the grace of God and the merit of Christ are the cause of the election of grace, but that God has, in addition, found or regarded something good in us which prompted or caused Him to elect us, this being variously designated as ‘good works,’ ‘right conduct,’ ‘proper self-determination,’ ‘refraining from willful resistance,’ etc.”
3. “This universal gracious will of God [that He desires all to be saved] embraces all men; the election of grace, however, does not embrace all, but only a definite number, whom ‘God has from the beginning chosen to salvation...”
4. Christians can and should be assured of their eternal election.... This assurance of one’s personal election, however, springs only from faith in the Gospel, from the assurance that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.... the Scriptures teach this doctrine in no other way than to direct us thereby to the Word, Eph. 1:13; 1 Cor. 1:7; exhort to repentance, 2 Tim. 3:16; urge to godliness, Eph. 1:14; John 15:3; strengthen faith and assure us of our salvation... Therefore: If, by the grace of God, you believe in the Gospel of the forgiveness of your sins for Christ’s sake, you are to be certain that you also belong to the number of God’s elect...”<sup>2</sup>

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.creeds.net/lutheran/missouri.htm>