

BIBLE READING

Matthew 22:1-15



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The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

22 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

MATTHEW 22:1-15



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4 “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.’

MATTHEW 22:1-15



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5 “But they paid no attention and went off—
one to his field, another to his business. 6
The rest seized his servants, mistreated them
and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He
sent his army and destroyed those murderers
and burned their city.

MATTHEW 22:1-15



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8 “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9 So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ 10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

MATTHEW 22:1-15



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11 “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 12 He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

MATTHEW 22:1-15



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13 “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.’

14 “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

15 Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words.

MATTHEW 22:1-15

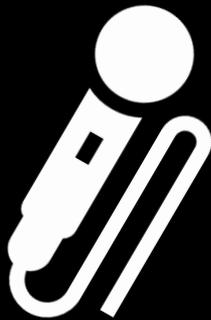


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THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST

Matthew 22:1-15

Speaker: Auke Rienstra

THE CONTEXT

1. Jesus is teaching in the temple
2. Question about Jesus' authority (vs. 23-27)
3. Parable of the two sons (vs. 28-32)
4. Parable of the tenants (vs. 33-46)



**NOW THE PHARISEES REALIZE
JESUS IS TALKING ABOUT...
THEM**

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet. (Matthew 21:45-46)



WHAT RELIGION DOES

- Critiques but does not love
- Says 'yes' to the Gospel message and grace but does not share the Gospel and is not gracious
- Makes selfish and controlling



**And now, in this context, Jesus tells the
parable of the wedding feast.**



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THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A WEDDING FEAST (VS. 1- 2)

- Several days
- Feast!
- Good food, drinks, dancing
- Joy, happiness, laughter

Are you getting excited yet?



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THE INVITATIONS SENT OUT (VS. 3-6)

- The nobles, the rich, the religious, the important ones are the invited
- But they would not come
- The king sends his servants out a second time
- But their farms and businesses had a higher priority
- It is very, very offensive to reject an invitation from the King
- Let alone seizing his servants, treating them shamefully and even killing them..



WE ARE INVITED

- We're invited through the Gospel
 - God, Man, Christ, Response
- Jesus Himself is the invitation
- Can Jesus take your RSVP?
 - Or do other things have priority?
- It's quite offensive to reject His invitation
- As we speak, some of His servants are being mistreated and sometimes even killed



THE KING = KING! (VS. 7-8)

- The King got angry..
- He sent out His army to..
- They lost everything that was so important to them, including their lives
- Because they were not worthy.
(nobody is b.t.w.)



EVERYONE IS INVITED! (VS. 9-10)

- The King gives His servants an extended task: everyone is invited!
- All kinds of people are now coming. Especially the ones you wouldn't expect?
- We might be surprised, you know
- We now know what to do: invite everyone!



AN AWKWARD SITUATION WITH A WEDDING CRASHER (VS. 11-14)

- The party is on it's way
- **THE KING** enters the room
- One person sticks out:
 - He is not dressed up
 - He can't explain himself
 - The king kicks him out



AN AWKWARD SITUATION WITH A WEDDING CRASHER (VS. 11-14)

- **Why?**
- **Because there are three kinds of people:**
 - **Those who reject the invitation**
 - **Those who accept the invitation and dress up**
 - **Those who accept the invitation because they have nothing better to do...**



THE DRESS CODE (COLL. 3:12-14)

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.



WHAT NOT TO DO

- So, don't be the offensive religious person but don't be a wedding crasher either!
- You see, many are called but few are chosen.



WHAT TO REMEMBER

1. You are invited: the gates are wide open!
2. You have to accept the invitation and dress up (Coll.
3. The kingdom of heaven is like a wedding feast!
 - God wants to be celebrated
 - Psalm 16:11 > God is a God of joy, full bellies and second rounds



COME!

**Come! There is a chair which has your
name on it!**



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