

## **Faith In the Home**

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
Matthew 22:1-14, "All are Invited, only a few RSVP."

Has there ever been a time where you have felt left out when a friend or a family member got an invitation to something that you would have loved to go to, but you didn't get invited? It can leave you feeling jealous and hurting. It can leave you feeling unloved. But take heart, you have been given a wonderful invitation from the creator of the universe. What is amazing is others have been invited too, but they are too busy, or too smart, or have better things to do, than to RSVP the amazing party we have been invited to.

This Sunday we are taking a look at another parable of Jesus told in Matthew 22, and this continues under the same discussion that Jesus was having after His authority, and identity was questioned by the Pharisees. The parable we are looking at the "Parable of the Wedding Feast."

**The Parable is summed up like this:**

1. The Wedding Feast represents the Kingdom of Heaven.
2. The King is God and the Son is Jesus.
3. The servants who go and call on those who are invited can be interpreted as the prophets.
4. The invitation is the Word of God.
5. The guests that are invited are the people of Israel/the Chief Priests considering the context of the conversation.
6. The Oxen and Calves being slaughtered for food points to the great feast with God that is prophesied in Isaiah 25.
7. Some of those invited to the feast ignored the invite and gave excuses, and others killed the servants. So, the King kills those murderous people. This represents condemnation.
8. The people on the road, can represent the gentiles who would believe, or even the those that could be considered to be sinners by the self-righteous.
9. The wedding garment, represents righteousness. You can only join the wedding feast if you are righteous. It is important to note that back in the time that Jesus told this parable, it was common for festive wedding garments to be provided for you by the host. So, to be not be dressed properly would be seen completely taboo in that culture. (Yet, people reject the salvation that we have in God which is a gift freely given to us.

10. The darkness that the man is cast into is Hell.

Marriage is not only sacred to God because it is His will to build righteous families, but marriage represents our relationship with Christ as His Church. Christ is known in the scriptures as the "Bride- groom," and we the Church are "the bride." Our relationship is eternal, and Jesus is fully committed to saving us by His grace through faith. That faith in Him brings eternal life. That faith in Him, means that you will be eating at the "Wedding Feast of the Lamb." That Faith we have in Him is our RSVP to eternal life. There are those who hear the Word, and still reject the invitation to eternal life, which is actually for the entire world, but only those who believe get into the party with clean, righteous garments given to us. Rejoice, you may have been rejected by sinful world, but you are not rejected by God.

**Points of Application**

1. This parable is perfect of how salvation, and judgement are carried out by God. It is also perfect in how righteousness is given. If you believe that Jesus is the Son of the Living God, and died and rose for you, then you have heard the Word and received it. The garment of righteousness has then been given to you.
  2. Don't grow weary of God's grace for you. Those who were first invited to the feast had better things to do than to go to the feast. Others even killed the servants who invited them to the feast. So, you can reject your faith. Apathy towards Jesus can lead towards unbelief. Keep seeking God's Word. Submit to its authority. Pray to God, come to worship on Sundays. Believe in Jesus Christ.
  3. Don't be afraid to invite others to the feast, by sharing the Gospel. God works through the Word, and we are His messengers.
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