

THE WEDDING FEAST

Text: Matthew 22:1-14

INTRO: Jesus had been speaking parables directed toward the Jews who were rejecting Him as they had rejected the prophets before Him. Let us look at His parable of the wedding feast.

- I. THE REIGN OF GOD IS COMPARED TO A FEAST.
 - A. Like a feast in its rich provisions, Eph. 1:3.
 - B. Not only is God's kingdom richly provided for those who partake in it, but its supply is ample for any & all who may choose to become partakers. Rev. 22:17

- II. THE KING SENDS OUT INVITATIONS.
 - A. He does not go in person but sends servants, vs. 3
 - B. Likewise, the Lord does not go in Person to the sinner, but uses His servants to encourage sinners to partake of the abundant blessings that are found in His kingdom.

Rom 10:14

2 Cor 4:5-7, For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

NOTE: Now, in the days of the written word, it is not absolutely necessary for a preacher to take the message but it is still important, for most of those who need the message are not reading the written word & they need someone to make its contents known to them.

- C. It might also be noted that even in the one recorded case where the Lord in Person went to a sinner—Saul on the road to Damascus—the Lord did not tell the sinner what to do, but sent the sinner to a servant of the Lord to receive the necessary instruction, Acts 9:6.

III. THE KING BECOMES ANGRY WHEN HIS INVITATIONS ARE REJECTED.

- A. Those who were first invited made light of the invitation, vs. 5.
- B. Their rejection to the King's invitation showed their own unworthiness, vs. 8.
- C. After they were bidden to come time after time, those who continued to refuse were excluded from the feast. This exclusion was a last resort & was in reality of their own choosing. 2 Peter 3:9

IV. WHAT ABOUT THE MAN WITHOUT A WEDDING GARMENT?

- A. A difficult part of the parable.
- B. Commentators usually suggest that it was the custom of the day for the host to provide each guest with the proper garment. At any rate, in this case, it was obviously the fault of the man under consideration, for he was left speechless—he had no excuse, vs. 12.
- C. It is a common figure in the N.T. for a special garment to represent righteousness.
- D. Why did the man in the parable not wear the required garment? We are not told.
 - 1. Perhaps he was just careless.
 - 2. Maybe he put off the matter until it was too late. 2 Cor 6:2
 - 3. Perhaps he preferred a garment of his own choosing. Mark 7:7
 - 4. He may have thought the special garment was not important. Many see no need to put on Christ in baptism, Gal. 3:26-27.

5. It makes no difference WHY the man was unprepared. He was rejected by the King. 2 Thess. 1:7-9

CONCLUSION: Rich provision has been made for us. Abundant life is at our disposal—but we must come into the realm where Christ is King & we must let Him rule in our hearts by faith. Not only is it important for us to become Christians, but also for us to BE Christians, being clothed in the garments of righteousness which He has made available to us.

Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, May 3, 1964

Cox Springs, TX, July 9, 1964

Jonestown, TX, April 21, 1968

La Porte, TX, July 11, 1982

Exton, PA, July 7, 1991

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, October 6, 1996

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, November 18, 2001

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, July 3, 2005