

# God's Invitation to Wedding Feast

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*[Matt 22: 1-10] And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: 2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, 3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. 4 Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' 5 But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his business. 6 And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. 7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' 10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.*

In this parable that Lord Jesus spoke to the Jewish people, the king is God, the king's son is the Son of God, King's servants are God's messengers, and the wedding feast is the heavenly wedding feast of the Lamb of God, where the chosen church of Jesus Christ to be wed with Christ. This wedding event is to be held in heaven in the last days before the Messiah returns to the world to reign over the Millennial Kingdom. Through this parable, Lord Jesus sums up the relationship between God and humanity including the Jewish people.

God is in sovereign rule over the whole world. He has prepared a wedding feast for His Son and has been inviting His people to join Him in its celebration, first to the Jewish people, then to the whole world. The chosen people of Israel, however, rejected His kind invitation. Thereupon, God has expanded the invitee list to the whole world, and many have accepted His invitation. Those who rejected His invitation, however, will be punished for their slighting and rejection of God as their king and ruler. Now, let us investigate the three points of this parable in detail.

## First, the parable speaks of the generosity and kindness of God.

The king has prepared a great feast and invited the people who are his subjects to this grand feast without charge. As was the custom in the Jewish culture, the entire village people take part in a wedding feast for a week with merriment and congratulatory celebration together. It is difficult to imagine any villager not wanting to be a part of the wedding feast where the entire village comes to enjoy and celebrate together.

More importantly, the wedding invitation is from the ruler of the kingdom. How would you respond to a wedding invitation from the president of the United States to be held at the White House? Would you dare to decline the invitation? If you were living in a kingdom ruled by a great king, would you dare to ignore a wedding invitation from the sovereign ruler? The king sent his servants multiple times to invite his people despite the bad way the people treated the messengers. This shows how patient and long-suffering God is toward humanity.

## Secondly, the parable speaks of people's bad attitudes toward God's kindness.

There are two groups of people who showed bad attitudes to the king's invitation. The first group slighted the king's invitation and made excuses for their farming work or businesses. The second group seized the king's servants, treated them spitefully, and even killed them. Lord Jesus is referring to the Jewish people who killed many of God's prophets in the past and John the Baptist more recently. And Lord Jesus is telling beforehand how they would kill the Son of God not long after.

## Third, the parable speaks of God's response to unworthy people's attitudes.

God was patient and showed long-suffering to the hard-necked people of Israel. However, when they repeatedly disobeyed God and rejected His counsel, God's patience ran out. Here, Lord Jesus describes God's response to the rejection of His people.

*[v. 22:7] But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.*

In the very next chapter of Matthew's gospel, we read of Lord Jesus lamenting over the evil attitude of His people and telling of what will come to them because of God's anger against them. "See, your house is left to you desolate." In the past God employed the armies of Assyria and Babylon to attack and destroy Jerusalem and other cities of Judah and Israel, taking the people as captives to their countries.

*[Matt 23: 37-39] "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 See! Your house is left to you desolate; 39 for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"*

What Lord Jesus prophesied through this parable is what God will do in the coming last days before His second coming. He said, in the present and future tense, "He [God] is furious. And He would send out His armies, destroy those murders, and burn up their city [v. 7]." This is what happened in AD 70, when God caused the Roman army to destroy and burn Jerusalem, killing more than a million people. And here is how God lamented, "The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy!"

And He opened the door of the gospel invitation to the whole world. People have been accepting God's invitation to His blessings and eternal feast with gladness ever since the first century. As a result, we will see, "The wedding hall is filled with invited guests [v. 10]." In the last days, however, there will be another great retribution of God against those who have refused God's invitation. The magnitude of this coming wrath of God cannot be compared to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, as Lord Jesus prophesied of this event.

*[Matt 24: 21-22] For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.*

Friends! Fear of God opens the door to unspeakable blessings. Lack of respect toward God, however, brings about God's indignation and wrath on you. So, what is the wisdom that is obvious to us? Let us acknowledge God as the Almighty God of heaven and earth and accept the invitation of the gospel of Jesus Christ and enter the Kingdom of God as His children so that we all may enjoy the merriment and celebration of the wedding feast of the Lamb of God as His bride for eternity.

*"Almighty God, our Father! We are forever grateful that You have been sending Your servants with the gospel message of Jesus Christ, that we accepted Your invitation to join You and Christ in heaven, and that we live with the wonderful prospect of being a part of the blessed throng at the Lamb's wedding feast as His bride. May the Holy Spirit continue to work in the hearts and minds of those who have yet to accept Your invitation so that they come to see Your generosity and kindness, accept Your invitation, and live in full confidence of blessed eternity in Your kingdom. In Jesus' holy name, Amen!"*

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