

SALT Church

Matthew 22:1-14

“Speechless”

April 1, 2026

It's Wednesday:

- Friday is coming and Jesus knows it
- His speech is sharp, and His eyes are set.
- He's in the temple once again teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven
- Time is drawing Him to the cross and He no longer has time for religious games
- Jesus offers three parables targeting the Jewish people and their leaders
 - The last of which is found here in Matthew 22
 - I chose it because I believe I was drawn to it by the Holy Spirit.
 - It is a timeless message from God the Father.
 - It is the world that we currently live
 - Let's look at it together:

Matthew 22:1-14

22 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying:

- A parable is one of the most effective teaching tools given to man
- It tells a story on two levels
 - There is the surface (the easy to see message)
 - There is the underlying (deeper message)

- Jesus is a master storyteller and teacher

² “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.

- Everyone always wants to know what Heaven is like.
- This parable is a tiny glimpse into what Heaven is like, according to Jesus.
 - Heaven is a kingdom
 - Kingdoms have Kings (all-powerful Kings)
 - Heaven has a King who has a Son
 - The King has selected a bride for His Son.
 - (John 6:44) This is the way a bride is selected for the 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.

- “who had been invited” this is a key phrase that helps us understand
 - Those invited knew the King
 - They knew the King had a Son
 - They knew the Son would one day get married.
 - Thus they would understand that the King would have been preparing not only the bride but for the wedding banquet that would be celebrated for days (even weeks)
 - The part of the parable that throws us a bit is the phrase, “but they refused.”
 - Why would anyone do that?

What will the King do?

4 “Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner:’

- I need to point something out
 - Some of your Bibles say “breakfast” rather than dinner.
 - The Greek word here is “ariston”
 - This is brunch usually served 9-10am.
 - This would later be followed by supper or “deipnon” (Dipe-non)
 - This was usually the largest meal of the day.
 - The point that Jesus was making was both meals were covered and this would have pointed out that the servants of the King had been working all night in preparation for the coming morning guest.

My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

- This is no small undertaking
 - The King is excited and desires to honor His Son with an elaborate celebration.
 - To dishonor the Son is to dishonor the King
 - To dishonor the King is to dishonor the Son
 - Can you feel the eager excitement that the Father would have for His Son has He would present to the Son the greatest gift any Father could give a son, His bride.

5 “But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business.

- What in the world?
 - Who would do this?
 - Those listening to Jesus were just as shocked as we are and maybe more so.
 - We do not have an earthly King.
 - Perhaps it would be like our president inviting us personally to the White House for his sons wedding and we turned down his offer so that we could go cut our grass!

This is where things get really crazy!

6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them.

- The FBI shows up to deliver your wedding invitation and you kill the agents!
 - That’s crazy!!!
 - But put this in its proper context
- Those that were already invited
- The ones that were turning down the invitations
 - They are the Jews, Gods chosen people
 - They killed the prophets for speaking the truth
 - They had killed John the Baptist (beheaded)
 - In two days, they will nail Jesus to a cross
 - All of the disciples including Paul will be murdered for their testimonies. (except John who was spared twice by God)

- So, there were two reactions to the invitation from the King.
 - Rejection and preoccupation with stuff
 - Anger and murder was the second

7 The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

- In the Greek it is translated “He sent His troops”
 - I bring this to your attention because:
 - If you haven’t figured it out yet Jesus is predicting the future of Jerusalem and the people within its walls.
 - God “The King” dispatches Roman troops to destroy Jerusalem and its temple in 70 AD.

Josephus the Jewish historian records:

- In 70 AD that the Roman General Titus Vespasian seized Jerusalem
- Over 1,100,000 Jewish men, women, and children were slaughtered that day and their bodies were thrown out of the city walls.
- He also set fire to the temple and completely destroyed it.
- He did not destroy the towers and part of the city wall.

(side note)

- I wonder if Jesus’ words came back to them in this moment

8 “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.’

- The Jews had rejected their King

9 So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.'

- “The highways and hedges”
 - Go and invite anyone you find
 - The Gentiles
 - It is important that we recognize this for Jesus is now redirecting the story to include the church as we know it today.

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.

- Did you catch that?
 - “The bad as well as the good”
 - Pastor, I thought there were no bad people in Heaven?
 - That is true
 - So, what do we do with this?
- Would you agree that we categorize people into good and bad people?
 - For simplicity’s sake let’s say that all people in prison are bad
 - All people not in prison are good
 - Now we know that is not the truth but for the illustration let’s pretend that is truth.
- **With this in mind lets re-read the statement made by Jesus**
“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.

- What do you see?
 - The King is calling unto Himself both groups, those in prison and those not in prison.
 - This is very important because it expresses the heart of the King and His desire to forgive.

For those of us who feel the weight of this verse, meaning “I never went to prison but I know what I have done.” Let me remind you of 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

⁹Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men ¹⁰nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Let's keep reading:

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.

- What do we do with this?
 - Let's ask ourselves a few questions:
 - Who was the last group that Jesus was making reference to?
 - The church! (not the Jews)

- Is it possible for someone to join a church
- Attend that church
- Pretend to be a Christian but not be a Christian?
- Is it possible that you and I could be fooled by a pretender?

- **Is it possible to fool God “The King?”**

- No
 - So, why would Jesus say that this man was not wearing “wedding clothes?”
 - What do wedding clothes look like?

Jesus said the words in Matthew 5:20

²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Here is the \$50 question:

- How does a person become righteous?
 - By grace alone through faith alone!

Pastor how does that help us figure out the clothing issue?

Job 29:14

I put on righteousness as my clothing; justice was my robe and my turban.

Isaiah 61:10

**I delight greatly in the Lord;
my soul rejoices in my God.**

**For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**

This man was not clothed in righteousness!

- **And the King could clearly see it**

¹² He asked, 'How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?' The man was speechless.

- There will be two kinds of people in Hell
- Those who know they deserve it and those who are angry with God for putting them there.
 - The latter will be the religious people those that Jesus quotes in Matthew 7

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

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.’

- The weepers will be the speechless ones
- The gnashers of teeth will be the religious ones

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

- Jesus closed His parable with a simple truth:
 - There is a global proclamation of the truth of the gospel
 - That global proclamation will be heard by all
 - But only those that are chosen will respond to it.
 - We may not understand why or how it works but we must understand it to be the truth.
 - This is why our invitation to the wedding fest is so special to us.