

## ✓ The Wedding Feast

Saturday, 20 December 2025 8:23 PM

### The Parable of the Wedding Feast

- [Mat 22:1](#) And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said:
- [Mat 22:2](#) "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,
- [Mat 22:3](#) and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.
- [Mat 22:4](#) 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."'
- [Mat 22:5](#) But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.
- [Mat 22:6](#) And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them.
- [Mat 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.
- [Mat 22:8](#) Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.
- [Mat 22:9](#) Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'
- [Mat 22:10](#) 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.
- [Mat 22:11](#) "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.
- [Mat 22:12](#) So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.
- [Mat 22:13](#) Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
- [Mat 22:14](#) "For many are called, but few are chosen."

#### 1. What is a Parable?

- **A Parable is a story from every day life that reveals spiritual truth or reality**
- [Mat 13:34](#) All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them,
- **Jesus frequently used parables to teach**
  - Parables carried key points that reveal spiritual truth
  - Not every detail in a parable significant
  - Parables frequently had a present and a future application
- **Why did Jesus teach in Parables?**
- [Mat 13:10](#) And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"
- [Mat 13:11](#) He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.
- [Mat 13:12](#) For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him
  - Parables revealed truth to those who were hungry and receptive (Matt.13:10)
  - Parables hid truth from those who had a "dull heart", who were proud and resistant. (Matt.13:13-15)

#### 2. What is The Kingdom of Heaven?

- [Mat 22:2](#) "The kingdom of heaven is **like** a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,
  - The focus of Jesus teaching and ministry was "The Kingdom of Heaven"
  - Many of Jesus parables began in a similar way: [Mat 22:2](#) "The kingdom of heaven is like..."
- **The Kingdom Heaven means the Rule of The King, or the Reign of God**
  - Jesus presented the Kingdom in Two Distinct ways:
    - **The Kingdom "Now"**
      - Present as an invisible reality now (Lk.17:21)
      - We experience that Kingdom by being "Born again" (Jn.3:3)
    - **The Kingdom "Yet to Come"**
      - The future rule of Christ over all the earth (Mat.16:27, Dan.7:14)
  - The Kingdom is the presence and power of God reigning in the earth

#### 3. Who is the King?

- [Mat 22:2](#) "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,
  - **The King represents God the Father**
  - The King has a Son who is beloved to Him
  - God the Father initiates the Marriage Feast in honour of His Son

- God the Father also issues invitations and holds those who reject Jesus accountable
- [Jhn 6:44](#) *No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me **draws** him; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

#### 4. Who is the Son?

- **The Son in this Parable is Jesus Christ**
  - The Focus of the Marriage Feast is the Bride and groom
  - This Marriage Feast is centered upon Jesus and not upon the guests
  - Jesus is the focus and Guest of Honour at the Feast
- [Jhn 5:23](#) *that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. **He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.***
  - God the Father honors us by inviting us to Marriage Celebration
  - We honour God by responding to His invitation and call to receive His Son

#### 4. What is the Marriage Feast?

- **In every culture a Marriage feast is an event that full of great celebration and joy.**
  - This is a Marriage feast put on by a Great King, God Himself
  - This is not just any wedding
  - This is a Royal Banquet put on by a King to celebrate the Marriage of His Son
- **There are Different pictures in the Bible of our Relationship with God**
  - **Royal Nation**
  - **Holy Priesthood**
  - **Temple**
  - **Body**
  - **Army**
  - **Bride**
- [Eph 5:25](#) *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,*
  - **A Marriage covenant is used to describe the relationship between Jesus and the church**
  - God does not have casual relationships. His relationships are based upon Covenant
  - God uses Marriage to reveal Covenantal love, Relational Intimacy, Joy and fruitfulness  
(Fornication is experiencing a degree of marriage intimacy with no covenantal commitment)
- **Pictures of this Marriage Relationship between Christ and the Church are spread through the Bible**
- **Examples:**
  - Gen.24: The Servant is sent to find a Bride (Rebekah) for Isaac the son of promise
  - [Psa 45:10](#) *Listen, O daughter, Consider and incline your ear; Forget your own people also, and your father's house;*  
[Psa 45:11](#) *So the King will greatly desire your beauty; Because He is your Lord, worship Him.*
  - [Jn.3:29](#) John calls Jesus the "Bridegroom" and himself the "friend of the bridegroom".
  - [Math.25](#) The Parable of The Wise and Foolish Virgins awaiting the coming of the Bridegroom
  - [2Co 11:2](#) *For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*
  - [Rev 19:7](#) *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."*
  - [Rev 21:9](#) *Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."*
- **The Marriage Feast will be finally fulfilled at the Coming of Christ**
  - 1. The Book of Revelation**
    - [Rev 19:9](#) *Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."*
      - It is called "The Marriage Supper of The Lamb" (Rev.19:9)
      - God will gather to a celebration that He Himself will host
      - Those who attend are called "Blessed"
  - 2. The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins**
    - [Mat 25:1](#) *"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.*
    - [Mat 25:2](#) *Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.*
      - This Parable is a part of Jesus response to questions about His Coming and the End of the Age

- **Communion is a constant reminder to us:**
- [1Co 11:25](#) *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*
- [1Co 11:26](#) *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*
  - Christ died for us. He gave up His life to save us
  - Those who receive Jesus Christ are joined in covenant relationship with Him
  - Christ will return again for His Bride and a great Wedding Feast

#### 5. **Who were the Servants?**

- **The Servants were people who were sent by the King as His Ambassadors**
- The Servants who were sent with the invitation to the marriage were:
  - Old Testament Prophets
  - John the Baptist
  - The Apostles
  - Any person God sends to invite people to the Marriage Feast of His Son Jesus

#### 6. **Who were they sent to?**

- **The Servants were sent to:**
  - Those who considered themselves "God's Chosen People", Israel
  - The Pharisees and Religious Leaders

#### 7. **How did the People Respond to the Invitation?**

##### 1. **Indifference**

- [Mat 22:3](#) *and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.*
  - **"Indifference"....lack of interest or concern, to treat as unimportant**
  - "Invited"....is the word Gk ..Kaleo..to call, to send a personal invitation
  - "Not willing"....they refused to come

##### 2. **Distractions**

- [Mat 22:4](#) *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."*
- [Mat 22:5](#) *But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.*
  - **"Distraction"....something that draws you away, divides you attention**
  - "Made light of it"....to be careless, to neglect
  - They had other priorities and went their own ways

##### 3. **Hostility**

- [Mat 22:6](#) *And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them.*
  - **Hostility" ..to be actively opposed**
  - They mistreated and killed the messengers of the King

#### 8. **What was the King's Response?**

- **Jesus now begins to talk about the future of Jerusalem and its inhabitants**
- [Mat 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.*
- **The Response of the People to the King's Invitation revealed:**
  - Rejection of God's Kindness and Authority
  - Love for the World and its Values rather than the King and His Kingdom
  - Religious privilege and entitlement
- **The Response of The King:**
  - **"Furious"....enraged by their dishonour and rejection**
  - **"Judgment"....Not worthy or Fit for the Kingdom (Mat.10:37, Lk.9:62)**
  - **Sent His Armies**, destroyed the murderers and burnt their city
  - (Jesus is speaking prophetically of events that had not yet happened. This judgement was fulfilled in AD70 by Titus and the Roman Imperial Army)
  - **Sent a Fresh Invitation**

#### 9. **Fresh Invitation sent out**

- [Mat 22:8](#) *Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.*
- [Mat 22:9](#) *Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'*
- [Mat 22:10](#) *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.*
  - *Invite.....Gk Kaleo ..to call to the wedding*
- **This is the Great Commission**
- All the servants of God are commanded to "Go"

- [Mat 22:9](#) **Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'**
  - The invitation that was to the Jewish people now is extended to all people from **all nations**
  - The Temple and Old Covenant have now become obsolete
  - God is inviting people of all tribes and nations to come to His Wedding Feast
  - A true Jew is now not one outwardly but one inwardly by circumcision of the heart (Rom.2:28-29)
- [Mat 28:19](#) *Go therefore and make disciples of **all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*  
[Mat 28:20](#) *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*
- **The Two Responsibilities of All Believers**
  1. **Engage People and Lead them to become Followers of Christ**
    - Lead people to Christ
  2. **Personally Prepare for the Wedding (Transformation)**
    - Become a Disciple, growing and changing to become Christlike

#### 10. **Man without the Wedding Garment**

- **Jesus now talks about the time of His Coming**
- [Mat 22:10](#) *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.*  
[Mat 22:11](#) *"But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.*  
[Mat 22:12](#) *So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.*
- **What is the Wedding Garment?**
- **A Wedding Garment is the exterior clothing a person wears to a wedding**
  - When we receive Jesus Christ we receive by faith His righteousness
  - Righteousness means right standing legally with God
- [Rom 3:21](#) *But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,*  
[Rom 3:22](#) *even the **righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.** For there is no difference;*  
[Rom 3:23](#) *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*  
[Rom 3:24](#) *being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*
- **When we receive Christ His Righteousness is attributed to us by faith as a free gift**
- [2Ti 1:9](#) *who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, **not according to our works**, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,*
- **Righteousness is also described as a Garment**
- [Isa 61:10](#) *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the **robe of righteousness**, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*
- There was a clear expectation by the King that all guests who had been invited to the wedding would **prepare** for this great event.
  - Just as a Bride prepares herself for the Wedding we are expected to prepare for the Coming of Christ
  - We are positioned as righteous with God by a free gift through faith in Christ
  - Now we need to work this out in our personal life
  - Our new standing gives us access to grow and to change
  - It is our personal responsibility to grow and change and not remain as we once were
- **The Wedding Garment represents a Transformed and Fruitful Life**
- [Rev 19:7](#) *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.**"*  
[Rev 19:8](#) *And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for **the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.***  
[Rev 19:9](#) *Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."*
- **God expects us to prepare for the Coming of His Son and the Wedding Feast**
  - *His wife has made herself ready..*
  - *"Ready".....hetoimazo....to prepare, get everything ready*
  - The garment was constructed of the righteous acts of the Saints

- We are each invited or called to the feast but are responsible make ourselves ready by embracing ongoing personal transformation expressed through our outward actions

## 11. Examples

- **The Wise Virgins:**
- [Mat 25:10](#) *And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.*
- [Mat 25:11](#) *"Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'*
- [Mat 25:12](#) *But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'*
- [Mat 25:13](#) **"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.**
  - This is a parable about the Coming Kingdom of God
  - Those who were ready went into the wedding feast with the Bridegroom
  - "Ready" ...gk hetoimos...to be prepared, ready to receive the Groom
  - In this parable being ready means paying the price to have "Spare oil for their lamp"
  - "Oil" ...is a symbol of the presence and activity of Holy Spirit
  - **Oil is obtained by crushing the olive....embracing the transforming work of Holy Spirit**
- **The Wise Servants:**
- [Mat 25:21](#) *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*
  - This is a also parable of the Coming Kingdom of God
  - The commendation and approval came from the King
  - His approval is based upon the faithfulness of the servants during the time of His absence
  - **Faithfulness means being productive or fruitful**
- **Those with The Lamb**
- [Rev 17:14](#) *These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."*
  - Calling and choosing is the responsibility of God
  - Faithfulness is our responsibility and choice
  - **Faithfulness is related to our conduct and service**
- [Tit 2:11](#) *For the **grace of God** that brings salvation has appeared to all men,*
- [Tit 2:12](#) *teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,*
- [Tit 2:13](#) *looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,*
- [Tit 2:14](#) *who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, **zealous for good works.***

## 11. Why did he not have a Wedding Garment?

- **The man without the garment acted entitled**
  - "Entitled"...to act like you deserve special treatment
  - Behave as though he is owed something when he is not
- **He Expected:**
  - Access without transformation
  - The Feast without Preparation
  - The Kingdom without Submission to its King
- **He took the Wedding Feast lightly and failed to prepare**
- [Mat 22:12](#) *So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was **speechless.***
  - "Friend"....He is not an enemy. He is called "friend" someone with privileged access
  - "Speechless"...totally reduced to silence in the presence of the King
  - He had no answer to the Truth: He had failed to prepare

## 12. What happened to the man without the Wedding Garment?

- [Mat 22:13](#) *Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into **outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**'*
- Jesus creates a vivid picture of the consequences to the man who was invited but failed to prepare
  - **Loss of Freedom and Liberty**
    - "Bind hand and Foot"
  - **Loss of Privilege and participation**
    - "Cast out"
  - **Loss of Reward- Outside the celebration and not in it**

- "Outer darkness"
  - Literally the darkness outside the light of the Wedding Celebration
  - Loss of honour, Joy and participation
  - **Grief and Regret at his Failure to Prepare**
    - Weeping
    - Gnashing of teeth...an expression of deep regret
    - Regret...feelings of deep sorrow and remorse at having failed to act
- He is not sent to hell.
  - He is excluded from the intimacy and reward of the Wedding feast to which he was invited
  - Those who fail to come to the wedding feast, along with those who are cast out, will remain in "outer darkness," dressed in their mortal clothing until the general resurrection a thousand years later.
    - They will not be consigned to "hell," nor will they lose their salvation, but neither will they have the honor of ruling with Christ during the Tabernacles Age in the Kingdom.

### 13. Jesus Application: "Called and Chosen"

- **Difference between being called and being chosen**
- [Mat 22:14](#) "For many are called, but few are chosen."
- "Called" ...gk Kletos...invited
  - The call gets you invited
- "Chosen" ...gk ekkletos
  - The garment makes you fit to stay
  - Faithfulness proves the garment was truly received
- **The invitation is extended to many**
- **Few are faithful to the call to prepare for the Coming of Jesus**
- **Few are chosen to enter the Wedding Feast compared to the many invited**
- Personal Application
  1. Receive Jesus Christ as Saviour
  2. Be Baptised in Water and Holy Spirit
  3. Commit to local Church
  4. Embrace personal spiritual growth and transformation
  5. Be proactive in reaching the Lost
  6. Be faithful in serving

The Spirit of Prophecy

[PREVIOUS](#)

Blog Series - Studies in the Book of Revelation

[View All Parts](#)

[NEXT](#)

- [Revelation 19:9](#) concludes this section about the bride, saying,
 

<sup>9</sup> And he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."
- The New Testament has much to say about the privilege of being invited to the wedding. In [Matthew 22:2-14](#)
- Jesus told a parable about the "wedding feast," saying,
- <sup>2</sup> The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king, who gave a wedding feast for his son. <sup>3</sup> And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come... <sup>5</sup> But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup> and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them. <sup>7</sup> But the king was enraged and sent his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and set their city on fire.
  - This parable was directed at the Judeans who were the first to receive the invitation, but who refused to come.
    - Worse yet, they mistreated and killed the prophets who had been sent with the invitation.
    - Although this particular parable does not mention the fact that they also killed the son himself (as in [Matthew 21:39](#)), it is clear that Jesus was giving the reasons for Jerusalem's destruction.

- In this case, “his armies” were the Roman armies, sent by the king (God), not so much because they rejected the invitation, but because they killed his servants, the prophets.
- The parable then continues in [Matthew 22:8-10](#).
- <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.” <sup>9</sup> Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.” <sup>10</sup> And those slaves went out into the streets, and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests.
  - This is a broad picture of the invitation that was extended to everyone else (non-Judeans).
    - Many of them, “both evil and good,” accepted the invitation.
    - This is a prophecy of the church that is filled with people who accepted the invitation, though some were “evil.”
- [Matthew 22:11-14](#) continues,
- <sup>11</sup> But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw there a man not dressed in wedding clothes, <sup>12</sup> and he said to him, “Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?” And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the servants, “Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” <sup>14</sup> For many are called [kletos, “invited”], but few are chosen [eklektos, “chosen, elected”].
  - The “evil” ones who came to the wedding were those who were “not dressed in wedding clothes.”
    - Even though they had accepted the invitation (wanting to follow Jesus Christ and give Him honor), they were rejected.
    - Many have interpreted this to mean that they were not real Christians, and each denomination presents its own criteria as to how to be a real Christian.
    - Certainly, there are many church members who are not real Christians.
    - But the parable tells us that they were cast out for not having appropriate wedding clothes.
  - This is how the parable is tied to [Revelation 19:8](#), for one must be clothed with spiritual “fine linen, bright and clean.”
- - Those who are not clothed appropriately will be expelled.
    - This shows that the time of the wedding feast is not the time for the restoration of all mankind.
    - In fact, as we will see in Revelation 20, the first resurrection is limited to the overcomers, who, by definition, are properly clothed in fine linen.
  - In other words, to attend this wedding feast, one must put on the glorified body by experiencing the feast of Tabernacles.
    - The problem is that most Christians know little or nothing about this feast and are thus unprepared.
    - They think the requirement is to accept the invitation as one of the “called,” when, in fact, that is only the first step.
    - To accept the invitation is to experience Passover.
    - To hear the word and grow to spiritual maturity through the Holy Spirit is to experience Pentecost.
    - To receive the heavenly clothing, that is, the glorified body, is to experience Tabernacles.
  - Those who fail to come to the wedding feast, along with those who are cast out, will remain in “outer darkness,” dressed in their mortal clothing until the general resurrection a thousand years later.
    - They will not be consigned to “hell,” nor will they lose their salvation, but neither will they have the honor of ruling with Christ during the Tabernacles Age in the Kingdom.
  - The message to the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3 admonishes the believers themselves to “overcome.”
    - These are the eklektos, the chosen ones, in Jesus’ parable.
    - Those who overcome are to be rewarded; those who do not overcome will have to wait until later.

