

Reflecting on “No Reservation— The Parable of the Wedding Feast” Matthew 22:1-14 | March 3, 2024

Introductory Points

- Matthew positions this story at the end of a series of parables that illustrate God’s authority and sovereignty even in the face of questions and rejection from people.
 - The context of this specific parable points to the actual marriage supper of the Lamb in Revelation 19.
 - From this parable, we learn that the kingdom of God is open to all who will come through Jesus Christ. At the same time, we are reminded of the consequences of those who reject Jesus as Lord.
- 1) **Read Matthew 21:23-27.** Why did the religious leaders question Jesus’ authority? What does their inability to answer Jesus’ question about John the Baptist reveal about their true motivation?

2) **Read Matthew 21:28-31 and Psalm 51:16-17.** What is the only right response to Jesus' authority over our lives?

3) **Read Matthew 22:1-10.** Which of the following words seem to best describe the king in this parable?

Generous Patient Angry

Jealous Just Hospitable

Based on **Revelation 19:1-9**, which of these adjectives are you comfortable applying to God as well? Does John's description of heaven encourage you to submit to God's authority? Explain your answer.

5) **Read Matthew 22:11-14.** In this passage, Jesus describes the middle-eastern practice of wedding hosts providing garments for their guests. In other words, the only way a guest would not wear proper attire is because he deliberately chose not to. How does this context help us explain the fate of those who, like the guest in this parable, will be cast into "the outer darkness" where "there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth"?

6) **Read Matthew 22:8-10 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.** What does this parable teach believers about their role in the kingdom of heaven? How will you embrace your role as an ambassador of Christ this week?