

## The Invitation of the King

As we continue our July series, “*The Kingdom Is Everything*,” we come to one of Jesus’ most powerful parables: the wedding banquet (Matthew 22:1-14). God, the King, has prepared a joyful feast in honor of His Son. But as invitations are sent, many reject Him — some with indifference, some with hostility, and others by trying to enter on their own terms. Still, the call goes out to all. The Kingdom is open — but only to those who come rightly clothed in Christ.

### I. The Gracious Invitation (Matthew 22:1-4)

- A. The Kingdom is described as a wedding banquet prepared by a king for his son (v. 2).
- B. Guests are summoned, but many refuse. The King sends more servants:  
“Everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.” (v. 4)
- C. This is a picture of God’s **grace and patience** (cf. Isaiah 55:1; Luke 14:17).

### II. The Invitation is Rejected (Matthew 22:5-7)

- A. Some guests respond with indifference, going to their farms and businesses (v. 5).
- B. Others respond with **violence**, attacking the King’s messengers (v. 6).
- C. The King’s judgment is swift: “He sent out his troops, killed those murderers, and burned down their city.” (v. 7)
  - 1. Jesus likely alludes here to the **destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70** (cf. Matthew 21:43; Luke 19:41-44).
  - 2. God’s patience is great, but **not endless**: John 5:23: *Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.*

### III. The Invitation Extends to the Unexpected (Matthew 22:8-10)

- A. Matthew 22:8: *The banquet is ready, but those who invited were not worthy...*
- B. The King tells his servants: “Go to where the roads exit the city and invite everyone you find...” (v. 9)
  - 1. The servants gather “both evil and good,” surprising recipients of grace (v. 10).
- C. This represents the gospel going to the **Gentiles and the outcasts** (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Luke 14:21-23).
- D. The Kingdom isn’t for the proud or polished — it’s for the humble and willing.

### IV. The Invitation Demands a Response (Matthew 22:11-14)

- A. One man enters the banquet without proper clothing, a wedding garment (v. 11).
- B. The King confronts him: “Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?” The man was speechless. (v. 12)
  - 1. He is thrown into **outer darkness** (v. 13; cf. Matthew 8:12).
  - 2. The garment represents righteousness, not your own, but Christ’s:
  - 3. “He has clothed me with garments of salvation and wrapped me in a robe of righteousness,” Isaiah 61:10
  - 4. “For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ,” Galatians 3:27

### V. As We Close...

- A. This parable ends with Jesus’ words: “For many are invited, but few are chosen.” (v. 14)
- B. God’s invitation still goes out. The feast is ready.
- C. But we must come in humility, through faith, and clothed in Christ (cf. Revelation 3:18; Romans 13:14).