



Intro:

Matthew 22:1-14

“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 own 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. 11 “But when the king came in to see the guests, **he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.** 12 So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, [b]take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 “For many are called, but few *are* chosen.”

Vs. 2 “a marriage for his son.” Marriage is a covenant. **This parable is about covenantal relationship.**

Vs.3 Those invited but unwilling to come were the Jews

Vs. 4 We see the generosity and inviting nature of the King.

Vs. 5 There are always those who are uninterested and concerned only with their own lives. **Cultural Context: To refuse the generosity of a king or even any man inviting you to a wedding or showing hospitality was one of the highest forms of insult.**

Vs.6 Disinterest quickly turns too hostility. Jesus is alluding to the Jews rejection, persecution and murder of the prophets

Vs. 7 Jesus reminds them that their past rejection of God's generosity led to the destruction and loss of their nation and points to another destruction to come which would be fulfilled in 70AD.

Vs 8 **The covenant invitation still stands. God is faithful even when we are unfaithful for he won't betray himself. 2 Tim 2:13**

Vs. 9 **The covenant invitation is now open to all!** Jew and Gentile a radical concept and striking rebuke to the Jewish pride.

Vs.10 **Good and bad...one of the key verses for "Belong, Believe, Become" mission statement**

Vs. 11 NO Wedding Garment...What's the big deal?

- **The wedding garment was an indication of covenantal agreement.** Covenant was often indicated by an exchange of clothing (**1 Samuel 18:1-4 Johnathan & David, Zechariah 3:1-5 Joshua the high priest is given new priestly robes, 2 Cor. 5:21 Christ was made sin that we might be made his righteousness!**)

- The wedding garment would have been provided by the King

- **The guest responds to the invitation, but on his own terms. He takes what he wants of the king's generosity, but does not submit to the covenant.**

Remez - Zephaniah 1:7-9

"Be silent in the presence of the Lord God; For the day of the Lord is at hand, For the Lord has prepared a sacrifice; He has [a]invited His guests. 8 "And it shall be, In the day of the Lord's sacrifice, That I will punish the princes and the king's children, And all such as are clothed with foreign apparel. 9 In the same day I will punish All those who leap over the threshold, Who fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit."

Punishment comes to the princes and kings children who are found wearing "foreign apparel". They did not wear the covenantal clothing! **Zephaniah explains that refusal to submit to the covenant is deceitful, lawless and violent!**

Vs. 12 The guest is speechless. We all will stand before the judgement seat fo Christ and give an account for our response. **Did we really enter into and submit to the King in covenantal agreement? Or did we respond according to our own preferences, taking and participating only as it pleased us?** This man was speechless. There is no excuse for refusing to submit to the covenant. We can't think that we can take from God his goodness and generosity but not submit to his covenant and lordship.

Romans 10:1-3 They refused to embrace the covenantal exchange

2 Corinthians 5:21 He became sin for us that we might be the righteousness of God

Vs. 13-14 Many will be shocked to find out that they are cast out. They think that they are fine responding to the invitation without submitting in obedience to the covenant.

Close: Invitation to submit to the covenant.

2 Cor. 5:21 "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."