



“R.S.V.P YOUR WEDDING INVITATION!”

MATTHEW Chapter 22:1-14

Jesus has already given the Jewish religious leaders two parables, the *Parable of the Two Sons*, and the *Parable of the Landowner* (Mt. 21:28-41) about their rebellion and ultimate judgment!

Now in chapter 22:1-14 our Lord gives them one more parable, known as the *Parable of the Marriage Feast*. This parable is also prophetic, it deals with Israel’s rejection of their Messiah; as well as the gospel going forth to the whole world for salvation!

One Bible commentator says, “This is one of the greatest parables Jesus gave for the period in which you and I live.”

- Insight: This parable is about the *Kingdom of heaven*, that is salvation! The *king* represents our heavenly *Father*, the *son* represents *Jesus*, and the *continuous invitation* to Jew and Gentile represents the work of the *Holy Spirit*.

- Jesus explains the work of the Holy Spirit in John 16:5-15 - *"But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."* *"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.*

(v1-4) Notice, “Two Invitations”

- First invitation, in advance, plenty of notice, yet rejected – Why the oversight? God first called His chosen people through Abraham, whose descendants would be a blessing for the whole world, Genesis 12:2-3 – *“I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

- After being captive in Egypt for 400 years, the chosen people were delivered through Moses and God said in Deuteronomy 18:18-19 - *I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.*

- Listen to Unger, a Bible commentator, explain Israel’s rejection.

- Second invitation, the wedding is now! Where’s everybody? The wedding feast was inseparable from the wedding, which involved a week-long series of meals and festivities and was the highlight of all social life. For a royal wedding such as the one Jesus mentions here, the celebration often lasted for several weeks. Yet, they would not celebrate their Savior and bridegroom, instead they crucified the Son of God.

(v5-6) Let's observe the two R.S.V.P.'s:

- **RSVP #1** – Who cares? One went to his farm, the other to his business; agriculture or industry, show me the money! Today people are the same, no time for God. There's 168 hours in one week and people can't even go to church for 1 hour. Others are self-satisfied with going to church for Easter and Christmas within a year's time (that means that out of 8,760 hours in one year they gave God 2 hours), and yet they expect God to give them eternity in heaven.

- Let's look at **Luke 12:16-21** - *Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

- **RSVP #2** – Violent persecution! This persecution not only happened in past Jewish history regarding their own prophets, but they crucified their Messiah as mentioned, and they killed many of those that shared salvation in Christ, one great example of a powerful witness and martyr is Stephen, turn to Acts 6:8 – Ch. 7

(v7-8) The King's Justice – The prophetic fulfillment of this passage (v7) occurred in A.D. 70, when the Roman general Titus conquered Jerusalem. He killed 1,100,000 Jews, threw their bodies over the wall, and slaughtered thousands more throughout Palestine. Listen to the testimony of the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus who witnessed this horrible event.

(v9-10) Third invitation, *take it to the highways and invite both good and bad* – Jesus gave us great commission in Matthew 28:18-20 - *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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, 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.*

- In Acts 1:8 we are told - *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

- **Look at what Peter said in Acts 2:38-42** - *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity*

of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

- How about Paul in Acts 26:12-18 - "While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

(v11) Have you received your wedding garment?

- What is it? In Isaiah 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."

(v12-14) Jesus wants us to be REAL! – The word "without" in Greek is *mee*, which means to purposely reject.

- Barnes, the Bible teacher writes, "Let those who make a profession of religion look often to the great day when Christ will search them. There is a day coming that will try us. His eye will be upon us. He will read our hearts, and see whether we are clothed in his righteousness, or only the filthy rags of our own. A profession of religion will not save us. It is foolish to deceive ourselves. Nothing but genuine piety, true faith in Jesus, and a holy life, will save us. God asks not profession merely, but the heart. He asks not mockery, but sincerity; not pretension, but reality. The hypocrite must perish. It is right that he should perish. He knew his Master's will and would not do it. He must perish with an awful condemnation. No man sins amid so much light, none with so high a hand. No sin is so awful as to attempt to deceive God, and to palm pretensions on him for reality."

Jesus said in Matthew 7:23 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

- Let's BE SAVED IN JESUS CHRIST!

- Let' go to the MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB! – REVELATION CH. 19