

Message Notes

A King who gave a Wedding Feast for His Son

Matthew 22:1-14

June 18, 2006

Message Outline

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I. How the Parable Moves . . .

- A. The Invitation to the King's Feast (22:2-4)
- B. The Rejection by the King's Subjects (22:5-6)
- C. The Filling of the King's Hall (22:8-10)
- D. The Undressed Guest in the King's Hall (22:11-14)

II. What the Parable Means . . .

- A. It tells us about **the joy** of the kingdom of heaven.
- B. It tells us about **the God** who rules the kingdom of heaven.
 - 1. His sovereign authority. (22:3, 4, 7, 8, 13)
 - 2. His patient grace. (22:2-4)
 - 3. His bountiful grace. (22:4)
 - 4. His seeking grace. (22:9-10)
 - 5. His providing grace. (22:11-12)
 - 6. His holy justice. (22:7, 13)
- C. It tells us about **how we enter** the kingdom of heaven.
 - 1. We enter only because the King has invited.
 - 2. We enter by responding to the King's invitation.
 - 3. We enter only if dressed in the King's clothes.
 - 4. We enter only because God has chosen.

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Matthew 21:28 – 22:1-14. How do these three parables build on one another and how does this third parable serve as a climax?
2. Describe again the context of this parable. Who? Where? When? Why? Why is verse 7 so interesting in light of what happens in A.D. 70? What do we make of this?
3. What's up with the guy who doesn't have any wedding clothes in v. 11? What is implied but not stated by Jesus here? Is the man unfairly thrown out of the wedding?
4. Before looking again at the outline, what do we learn about the King of the Kingdom of Heaven from this parable? In which verses?
5. Before looking again at the outline, what do we learn about how we enter the kingdom heaven? Does this parable stress the sovereignty of God in salvation more strongly or human responsibility more strongly? Where do you see each in the text?

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. A big theme here is the sovereign authority of God. How does our culture view and respond to authority? How does that affect the way we read and respond to this parable?
3. Another big theme here is the grace of God. How have you experienced the patient, bountiful, seeking, providing grace of God in your own life? How does recognizing our need and dependence on grace change the way we respond to the authority of God?
4. Think about the biggest, best party you've ever been to. What was it like? What made it so good? What can we learn about the kingdom of God by the feast metaphor? Are there other places in the Bible where this same metaphor is used? Find one or more.
5. What would be the function of the king providing wedding clothes for all his guests? What are the wedding clothes that we need according to Galatians 3:27? What do they provide us?