

Matthew 22.1-14

Save the Date!

January 1st GRANDSON turned ONE – Wonderful Dau-in-Law > E-VITES

Clever COMPUTER Program – SEE All Invited Guests – & their Responses

All the Significant Members of our Little Guy's World were E-VITED!

Few People REPLIED YES – We're Coming! – Planned for them, Bought Food!

THEN FAILED to SHOW UP > That Night we BURNED Down their Houses!

Text Seems OVER THE TOP – Invitees who NOT WANT Party > Kill Inviters!

People who Fail to Show Up at Banquet > City BURNED DOWN!

LET'S take a Closer Look at Story and see what's GOING ON...

As we move from EPHESIANS back to Matthew > See Similar Theme

DOMINANT Theme of Ephesians, Matthew, ALL Bible >> GRACE

God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Undeserved, Unmerited, Unconditional, Unlimited, Unstoppable Love of God

1. Shocking Grace

vs. 2,4 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son... “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.””

Jesus PAINTS a Picture of God who FREELY and GRACIOUSLY GIVES

Some Parables are Difficult to Interpret > but THIS ONE All TOO CLEAR

v. 4 EVERYTHING IS READY! – Salvation is ACCOMPLISHED!

GIVING God Not GRASPING GOD, GRACE: Undeserved, Unconditional Love

Like CINDERALLA discovered it's NOT NORMAL to get a PALACE INVITE

All my British Friends: None told me Q. Eliz invited Wedding Will & Kate?

IF INVITED would U Rather go to Work Instead? Library? Hang at Starbucks?

King prepared Wedding Banquet for Son > Jesus puts Himself into His Story
 Servants SENT to those ALREADY AGREED to Come – Reminder Invite
 Parable NOT Mention what Listeners Commonly KNEW > Invitation System

FIRST – People INVITED so HOST could PLAN HOW MANY to FEED
 ANCIENT Wedding FEAST lasted 7 days > Big Commitment to ATTEND
 BUT if King Invites to Big Event like Son’s Wedding – You BETTER Go!

The honor of being invited by a king – and the terror of displeasing him – would
 have motivated intelligent invitees to attend. Craig S. Keener

STORY Meant to Shock Crowds of Listeners – Almost LAUGHABLE!

Really, Me, I get INVITED to King’s Son Wedding > Will the Sun Stand Still?

We OFTEN SUNG: Amazing grace that saved a wretch like me..! John Newton
 REALLY?? We’re CHURCH People – Loyal, Faithful, NOT like those Sinners!

Pope just Visited Some of Most DANGEROUS, DESPISED Cities in MEXICO
 Challenges System of Economic Oppression, Corruption, Murder, Drugs
 Told kids “Jesus does not want you to be Hit Man!” > Told Hit Men REPENT!
 PLACES where PRESIDENT does not even DARE to Go > Pope Hugs People
 That Papal VISIT – NOT his Theology > Moment of SHOCKING GRACE

2. Spurned Grace

RC Mexican HIT Men likely knew Pope REBUKE them > Still Showed Up
 a. Too Busy? People in Jesus’ Story Too BUSY Lots of IMPORTANT Things
 vs. 3,5 and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast,
 but they would not come... they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm,
 another to his business

To decline such an invitation with such a flimsy excuse is a grave insult.

Joe Kapoloyo

Jesus PREACHED this Great Sermon MORE than once – Luke adds a bit...

...they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’

Luke 14.18,19

Some Do Not Openly express Hatred > Make Seemingly Reasonable Excuses

Excuses are TRIFILING > Not one of these excuses has any weight at all
FIELD could WAIT – OXEN Tested ANYTIME – Bring your BRIDE to Feast

Part in Matt 3 PARABLES Told > 2 Others with SIMILAR MESSAGE

Leaders SPURN the Gracious INVITATION to Welcome the SAVIOR of World
GREAT DANGER of Rejecting Jesus as MESSIAH of ISRAEL

Parables are Jesus answer to TAUNTING QUESTION of Religious Leaders...

And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Matthew 21.23

To COME to the King’s Son’s Wedding Banquet is an HONOR & COMMAND

And these REBELS will Accept NEITHER

It was not that they *could* not come. Rather, they *would* not...they would not come because they actually despised the king and were hostile to him. James Boice

Many people LOVE the GIFTS of the KING – but HATE the KING

HEALTH, PROSPERITY, FAMILY, JOB, FOOD AND WINE, SEX, IDEAS

GLAD for the GIFTS > NO INTEREST in the GIVER

Although the invitation was free, the individual guests were not free to flout the rules of hospitality. The salvation of God in Christ is offered freely, but once in the kingdom of God, people need to behave appropriately. Joe Kapolyo

b. Too Bad! > Not just SCHEDULE Problem, it was a SIN PROBLEM

v. 6 while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them

Ancient peoples universally despised the mistreatment of heralds, or emissaries...it was outright treason, constituting a declaration of revolt.

Craig S. Keener

Today Same Spirit is Present among Many > Dispose of God's Messengers by
Ridicule or Neglect > or Even GREATER VIOLENCE

Some who HATE the MESSAGE literally KILL the MESSENGER

2 Groups in Story are Really in ALLIANCE – Both REJECTED King

Busy and the Bad - Pre-Occupied and Persecutors are on SAME SIDE

OPEN TREASON and CASUAL INDIFFERENCE from SAME HEART

Stephen: "Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it" Acts 7.52–53

Are YOU Surprised? Just a Choice? Religion is FINE for YOU! Not for Me!

I am NEUTRAL > No, you are God's ENEMY! > YOU HATE GOD!

Jesus: "Whoever is not with me is against me" Matthew 12.30

...this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. John 3.19

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Romans 1.28-32

3. Shameless Grace

How do you think these SERVANTS FELT? Their SOVEREIGN is SHAMED!

People prefer their WANTS and WISHES to the WEDDING of His Son

FOOD going to WASTE – Start TAKING DECORATIONS DOWN ??

But King says STOP, WEDDING will HAPPEN, My Son will be HONORED...

vs. 8-10 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.' And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

a. Proud Shrink - RELIGIOUS People shocked "Kingdom OPENED Wide
Gentiles Allowed, Even BAD Ones! > Jesus CALLS the DREGS of World

Self-Proclaimed MESSIAH – No Education or Ordination

Gathers a KINGDOM for Prostitutes and Tax Collectors

Messengers are the early preachers of the gospel.

Invitation first given to UPSTANDING Jews

Eventual Attendees of Banquet – Outcast, Poor, even Gentiles

Many TODAY don't want to be Associated with SUCH LOSERS

Christians? Didn't they Start ALL WARS – Isn't Donald Trump a Christian

Narrow-Minded, Bigoted, Allergic to FUN in any FORM, Who wants that??

ALL the COOL People have BLOWN off INVITATION > I'll JOIN Them!

How many HIPSTERS have Popped into ZGC decided we FAILED their TEST?

God of FREE GRACE, God has NO FAVORITES, ALL are INVITED

Nobody can say they are NOT INVITED

Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

Luke 14.21-23

God FILLS His Kingdom with CHUMPS and He DOESN'T CARE!

Apostle Paul: We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.

1 Corinthians 4.11-13

If you CANNOT STAND Up Anywhere, Anytime, with Anyone and

Confess Christ, You are ASHAMED of Him

b. King Shines!

One's LAUGHED at by WORLD are LOVED by God > It is called GRACE

God put these REJECTS on His A Team for the GLORY of His Gracious Name

"All that the Father gives me *will* come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away"

John 6.37

In OUR MINDS we Look Down on God's Taste – Invited those LOSERS

Because we have TOO HIGH an Opinion of OURSELVES

Are we really THE WINNERS – Does God Need Us? – Are we Deserving!?

“God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him” 1 Corinthians 1.27–29

“...to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” John 1.12

Charles Spurgeon preached from this passage 7 X’s during his long ministry. He has some great observations about those who were finally came to the Wedding.

1. *“The persons who came to the wedding were more grateful than the first invited might have been if they had come.*

RICH People NOT Need ANOTHER Fancy Palace Meal

They ATE Fancy Meals 3 Times a Day!

“We worked really hard for this stuff, so thanks for nothing!” Bart Simpson

BEGGARS had NEVER been to SUCH a BANQUET

NEVER Eaten 2 Meals a Day > NOW they Come to 7 days of FEASTING

LONG LIVE THE KING! EVERY BLESSING ON HIS SON!!

2. *“The joy that day was much more expressed than it would have been had others come.* Those ladies and gentlemen who were first invited, if they had come to the wedding, would have seated themselves there in a very stiff and proper manner.... But these beggars! They make a merry clatter; they are not muzzled by propriety; they are glad at the sight of every dish....

3. *“The occasion became more famous than it would otherwise have been.*

RICH > Just another SOCIAL OCCASION on their VERY BUSY Calendar

POOR > Highlight of their ENTIRE LIFETIME > JOY UNSPEAKABLE

They will NEVER STOP talking About This > PRAISE will be ETERNAL!

Ultimately, nothing will dishonor God. Unbelievers may despise him and dishonor him by their rejections of the gospel, but theirs is not the last word. Their hatred will be overcome by God's good, and the praise of the redeemed will drown out the cries of the impenitent.

Charles Spurgeon

4. Sovereign Grace

Sovereign > Authority, Control, Rule, Power, Uniqueness, Lordship

Jesus has been Preaching this GOD > Most Leaders NOT Happy

Challenge to their POSITION, POWER, and their POCKETBOOKS

God of the Bible is Sovereign – at the Same Time Loving, Wise, Good, True

The main problem is that we live in a world obsessed by autonomy. As with Adam and Eve in the garden, people today do not want to bow the knee to someone other than themselves. God's lordship confronts and opposes autonomy from the outset. It demands our recognition that all things belong to him and are subject to his control and authority. That demand is unacceptable to people who are outside of Christ, and to some extent even believers chafe when the demand is clearly made.

John Frame

a. Dress

vs. 11,12 “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.

Some who SHOW UP at the BANQUET will STILL DISHONOR the KING
LEGEND > KING Provided Garment for GUESTS > No Real Evidence of This
Guest EXPECTED to Dress Appropriately for GRAND OCCASION

NOT a Matter of MONEY > Issue of MANNERS

Man was NOT TOO POOR > He was too PROUD

SCRUFFY DRESS shows CONTEMPT of his HEART > Open OFFENSE

NOT Man TOO POOR to Buy Suit > Too PROUD to Bow Down to Sovereign

There is a narrow line between true Christian assurance and dangerous complacency.
Christopher Ash

INVITATION to the Banquet is WIDE > REQUIREMENT is NARROW

Clear PROMISE of the Gospel of Matthew

“...you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins”
Matthew 1.21

BELIEVER is RANSOMED by the PRECIOUS BLOOD of Christ

“...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”
Matthew 20.28

What is the wedding garment? It is the righteousness of Jesus Christ, of course. It is that perfect righteousness that God provides freely to all who repent of sin and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for their salvation. James Boice

v. 14 “For many are called, but few are chosen.” – WE CALL, GOD CHOOSES

b. Destruction

v. 7 The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

BURNING a City was the FINAL STEP in their DESTRUCTION

Matthew looks to DESTRUCTION of Jerusalem in 70 AD by the Romans
BLOOD of All Righteous Prophets they KILLED evoked Grim Judgment

Don't be FOOLED by Politics – Modern State of Israel – NOT God's Nation
ONLY Nation God has TODAY > People from Every Nation honor King Jesus

We DARE NOT become PRESUMPTUOUS about our Heritage or Accolades

For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Romans 11.21

Worst kind of Arrogance > THINK you have Something to OFFER Holy God
Even OUR Best PRAYERS could send us to HELL > Nothing PERFECT

It would be monstrous for us to want to withdraw from His rule when we cannot
exist apart from Him. John Calvin

Does a person refuse the air he breathes?

Greg > down block from a family w/ an in-ground swimming pool in back yard
Never gone swimming in their Pool > Barely knew People
High Wooden Fence enclosed Pool
Dark Night Neighbors away > Greg & Girlfriend scaled Fence to go for a Swim
Greg > Climbed Ladder > Girlfriend still Changing > Leapt off Diving Board
Dive Ended with Sickening Crunch of Bones
Unfortunately SO DARK Greg could NOT SEE > POOL had NO WATER

Greg Paralyzed from Neck Down for Rest of Life > Greg Ignored Fence
Fence was Hindrance to THEIR FUN

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.
Proverbs 14.12

c. Darkness

v. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him
into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of
teeth.’

SOBER WARNING for all those with NO TIME FOR GOD

TOO BUSY for Church, Bible Reading, Prayer, Fellowship, Too Poor to TITHE

Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have
fallen, but God’s kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness.
Otherwise you too will be cut off. Romans 11.22

Like the MAN without the RIGHT DRESS – NAKED in his own MERITS

There is NOTHING to Say – SILENCED – No Excuse can be OFFERED

every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to
God. Romans 3.19

Spurgeon > Ship Owner visited by Godly Man

Christian asked, “Well, sir, what is the state of your soul?”

Merchant replied, “Soul? I have no time to take care of my soul. I have enough to
do just taking care of my ships.”

But he was not too busy to die, which he did a week later.

You do not have to murder a prophet to miss out. You have only to fritter away
your time on things that will eventually pass away and thus let your opportunities
for repentance and faith pass by. James Boice

SOMETHING is REALLY Important you will SAVE THE DATE

KING is INVITING YOU – Wedding of His Royal Son – Be a Fool to Miss it!

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult 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 like a priest with a beautiful
headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. Isaiah 61.10

Matthew 22.1 And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, 2 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, 3 and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”’ 5 But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. 7 The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ 10 And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. 12 And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.”