The Life of Jesus (77)

The Parable of The Wedding Banquet (2)

Matthew 22:1-14

#1 The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

3. Extended Invitation

When the king in the parable heard that the people he had invited refused to come and had killed the servants he had sent to them, the king was enraged and sent his army to destroy the murderers. This indicates God's fearsome judgment that will eventually be revealed.

After that, the king told his servants,

"The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find." (Mt 22:8-9)

"So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests." (Mt 22:10)

Now, we see that the king's invitation to the wedding banquet is extended to anyone and everyone. The king didn't put any restrictions on the invitation. Anyone who wanted to join could come. Even bad people could come.

#2 The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

3. Extended Invitation

Here, words like "anyone" and "all the people" are important because they reveal that God's invitation to His kingdom is open to everyone in the world without exception.

"[God] wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth… the man Christ Jesus…. gave himself as a ransom for all people." (1Tm 2:4-6)

God wants all people to come to know Him and be saved. To make this happen, God gave us His one and only Son, the man Christ Jesus, who laid down His life as a ransom for all people.

God's salvation isn't only for certain groups of people. The good and the bad alike are invited. Not only the righteous, but also sinners are invited. Not only the faithful, but also the unfaithful. God literally requires nothing from us. All those who believe in Jesus receive the redemption He achieved on the cross. That's how we should respond to God's gracious invitation to His kingdom.

#3 The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

3. Extended Invitation

If you already believe in Jesus and have accepted the invitation, please consider those who haven't yet heard about God's gracious invitation.

Even though the invitation to the kingdom of God is for all people, not everyone has heard about it. There are still people who don't know that they are invited. There are still people in the streets who are dying in their sins without even knowing that all their sins were already washed white by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

So, we should be like the king's servants who went to every street corner to deliver the invitation to the wedding banquet. We're to let them know that they can be saved by believing in the Son of God.

In the parable, we're not only the bride or guests, but also the servants since we are called to deliver the gospel of Jesus Christ and the good news of the kingdom of God to those around us.

#4 The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

4. The King Comes to See the Guests

The parable doesn't end with the wedding banquet being filled with people. Many people came to the wedding, but there was a man who was not qualified to be there.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, 'How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?' The man was speechless. "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" (Mt 22:11-13)

At first glance, we might think that the king was too harsh. Was not wearing proper clothes so bad that the king had him thrown out?

But we need to know that the man didn't wear the right clothes not because he was too poor to buy them but because he simply didn't want to.

#5 The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

4. The King Comes to See the Guests

We see this from the fact that the man became speechless when the king asked him, "How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?" (Mt 22:12)

The man had nothing to say to the king because he knew that it was 100 percent his own fault. We can infer from the king's question and the man's response that it's very likely that the king gave all the guests not only the invitation but also clothes to wear.

It becomes clearer when we remember that this parable represents the kingdom of God. The Bible says that when God invites us to His kingdom, He gives us the proper clothes to wear.

But the man showed disrespect by not wearing the proper clothes and he was given what he deserved.

#6 The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

4. The King Comes to See the Guests

Likewise, we are to know that there will come a time when God comes to see whether we are wearing the right clothes for His kingdom.

Even though the invitation is given to everyone, including the good and the bad, it doesn't necessarily mean that all people can enter the kingdom of God. Only those who wear the right clothes which God freely gives us can enter.

When Jesus comes back with His kingdom, God will check what kind of clothes we're wearing. On that day, everything will be revealed so clearly that no one can flee from God's inspection.

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Heb 4:13)

#7 The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

4. The King Comes to See the Guests

On that day, God separated the righteous from the evil and the standard will be the kind of clothes they are wearing.

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him... and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left." (Mt 25:31-33)

To the sheep on his right, Jesus will say, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world." (Mt 25:34)

But to the goats on his left, He will say, "'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." (Mt 25:41)

#8 The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

4. The King Comes to See the Guests

What really terrifies is the fact that both groups of people call Jesus 'Lord.' They are not unbelievers. They are those who might identify themselves as 'Christians.' But still, Jesus said that there will be a lot of people who will be put on His left among them.

We can also see this from the parable of the weeds. In the parable, there were wheat and weeds growing together in an owner's field. The owner knew about it but he told his servants not to pull the weeds up because he was afraid that they might uproot the wheat with them.

#9 The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

4. The King Comes to See the Guests

The owner said, "Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn." (Mt 13:30)

What Jesus emphasizes through the parable is that there will come a time when He allows true Christians, the wheat, to enter the kingdom of God while collecting others, the weeds, to be burned outside the kingdom.

That's what Jesus wants us to keep in mind. The King will come to see if the guests are properly dressed to enter His Kingdom. If we know this, we should be careful about what kind of clothes we're wearing as Christians.

But we don't have to be afraid. We don't have to make or buy the appropriate clothes for the kingdom of God ourselves because they're freely given to all those who are invited to the kingdom. All we have to do is just wear them.

Memory Verses

"The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find." (Mt 22:8-9) (1)

"[God] wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth… the man Christ Jesus…. gave himself as a ransom for all people." (1Tm 2:4-6) (1)

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Heb 4:13) (1)

"Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn." (Mt 13:30) (2)

Reflection Questions

1) God invites all people into His kingdom. Have you accepted the invitation? If so, how do you know? If you haven't, what are some things that make you hesitant to do so?

2) God wants all people to know the truth and return to Him. Are there people around you who haven't heard about the gospel? Have you tried to tell them about God's invitation? What are some good ways for you to do so?

3) There will come a time when God comes to see if we're wearing spiritual clothes that are fitting for the kingdom of God. Do you think you're wearing the proper clothes right now? Why or why not?