



Matthew 22 ESV

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.”’

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Matthew 22 ESV

“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.”

Matthew 22 ESV

“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.”

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Big Idea

Move from flirting with Jesus on your terms to following Him on His terms.

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Everyone Is Invited

- Jesus describes a King inviting guests to a wedding feast.
- God's invitation - The King prepares everything.
- God initiates salvation.
- Grace & patience – God sends servants again & again.
- The kingdom is now — “The kingdom of God is wherever the King rules and reigns... and that is HERE and NOW!”

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Everyone Is Invited

- No one is too far gone - Servants gather “both bad & good.”
- Worthiness is simple - “What does it take to be worthy? ACCEPT THE INVITE!”

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Many Ignore the Invitation
• Some reject the invitation outright; others are simply too busy. • Distraction is dangerous - “One to his farm, another to his business.” • Busyness becomes blindness (“I’ve got a boat... I’ll just keep doing merry-go-round normality.”)

10

Many Ignore the Invitation
• Ignoring = rejecting (“To ignore God and to outright reject God have the same result!”) • Good intentions aren’t salvation (“I’m a good guy... I’m not anti-Jesus?”) • Judgment eventually comes - The King is “slow to anger,” but the invitation does not last forever.

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Everyone Must Come on the King's Terms

- The man without the wedding garment shows the danger of self-righteousness.
- Wedding garments symbolize Jesus ("They put on the King's garments.")
- Self-righteousness fails ("He thinks his garments are good enough.")

13

Everyone Must Come on the King's Terms

- Clothed with Jesus.

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Galatians 3:27 ESV)

- Put off the old self.

(Colossians 3:8-10)

14

Everyone Must Come on the King's Terms

8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self[a] with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (Colossians 3:8-10 ESV)

- Following versus flirting ("Are you ready to FOLLOW Jesus on His terms?")

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Practical Applications

- Begin each morning by saying, "Lord, I accept Your invitation today."
- Even in retirement, distractions crowd out peace; choose quiet moments with God.
- Ask the Spirit to clothe you with gentleness, patience & peace.
- Trust Jesus' righteousness, not your performance or past.
- Live with hope: the wedding feast is coming & Jesus has already paid the price.

16

Discussion Questions

- What part of the King's invitation encourages you most?
- Where do distractions pull you away from Jesus?
- What does it mean to "put on Christ" at this stage of life?
- How can we invite others to the feast?
- Are you following Jesus on His terms or yours?

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