

Dressed for Success; Matthew 22:11-14

I. Wedding Feast

- A. Matthew 22:1–4; 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.” ’
- B. It is very hard not to see the King as God and the Son as Jesus
- C. Very often we see the relationship of the church to the Son as a marriage
 - 1. Ephesians 5:25–32; 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.
 - 2. I keep coming back to this idea because it is so integral to our Christianity
 - 3. There have been many books written on how to keep a marriage alive and well
 - a) One of my favorites is His Needs, Her Needs by Willard Harley
 - b) Mr. Harley focuses on the idea that we must meet each others’ needs in order to make the marriage flourish
 - c) The “Love Bank”
 - 4. But Paul says this refers to Christ and the Church
 - a) Are we willing to meet the “needs” of Christ (our Bridegroom) over ours?
 - b) Matthew 6:25-33 says He will meet our needs
- D. Just like in a marriage between a man and a woman, it is our own selfishness that interferes with our relationship with the Christ

II. The Prophets

- A. Matthew 22:5–6; 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.
- B. All we have to do is read some of the Old testament prophets to understand this comparison
 - 1. Hebrews 11:32–38; 32 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— 38 of whom the world was not

worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

2. Matthew 23:37–39; 37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 38 See, your house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

C. Yet, even with this example before us, we do the same thing

1. We see people who ridicule those who speak out against a lifestyle of sin calling them names and assassinating their character
2. We create laws to say that which is evil is good, and that which is good is evil.
3. "Right is right, even if everyone is against it; and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it." — William Penn

D. Our focus should be on the Heavenly Father and his needs, not our own selfish wants and desires

III. Judgement

A. Matthew 22:7; The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

B. We can see the coming destruction of Jerusalem

1. Luke 19:41–44; 41 And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side 44 and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

2. By rejecting “peace” (Jesus is the Prince of Peace) they secured their destruction

C. The destruction of our physical bodies is inevitable

D. But by accepting the Prince of Peace we secure a life in the presence of God

IV. Invitation

A. Matthew 22:8–10; 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.

B. Genesis 12:3 tells us all nations (families) will be blessed through Abraham’s offspring

C. Galatians 3:16 tells us that that offspring is the Christ

D. From the very beginning God’s plan was salvation for all mankind

E. Jesus came through the Israelites but came for all mankind

1. God sent Peter to Cornelius (Acts 10)

2. God sent Paul to the Gentiles

3. Ephesians 3:7–9; 7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,

F. We have been invited to the Cross!

V. Dressing Ourselves

A. Matthew 22:11–14; 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.”

- B. I think it is interesting to note that the guest is inside at the feast; but he is not dressed properly
- C. In the parable of the oil lamps, the 5 women were outside and not allowed in; this man is inside, then kicked out because of his clothing
- D. How are we clothed?
 1. Isaiah 61:10; 10 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.
 2. Romans 13:11–14; 11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
 3. Galatians 3:23–27; 23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
 4. Romans 6:3–6; 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

VI. Get Dressed!

- A. Do not reject God’s invitation
- B. Only pain and judgment await those who reject him
- C. Accept God’s invitation to the “wedding”
- D. Dress yourself in Christ!