

## “Parable of the Wedding Banquet”

### Introduction – Matthew 22:1-14

This parable centers in on people’s decisions to not respond to the invitation of God to the relationship He has called us to which is likened to a marriage.

The religious leaders and the people who in outward form said they were serving God but really in their hearts were not is the emphasis here.

As of yet, there was not the church. That would come after the resurrection but the point is the call of God to the human heart to come to Him as the source of life and fulfillment!

So let’s dig in! 😊

### I. THE INVITATION TO THE WEDDING BANQUET (VERSES 1-6)

#### Matthew 22:1-6 (NIV)

1 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. 4 “Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’ 5 “But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. 6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them.

A wedding is one of the most significant social events of our lives! The wedding of a prince was an even greater magnitude. So to be invited is an amazing privilege! Sadly the intended guests didn’t look at it in this way.

In another parable that we look at later in this series, it brings out the detailed excuses people made:

**Luke 14:16-20 (NIV)**

**16** Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. **17** At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ **18** “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ **19** “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ **20** “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’

So how does this relate to us today in 2026? The work of our reconciliation with God has been accomplished in what Jesus did for us in His work on the cross and resurrection to life! This gospel we have is an invitation to all mankind! Just listen to these verses:

**Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)**

**28** “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

**Hebrews 4:1-3, 6-7 (NIV)**

**4** Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. **2** For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed. **3** Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, “So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’” And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world. **6** Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of their disobedience, **7** God again set a certain day, calling it “Today.” This he

did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”

We are told that as we respond to the gospel which Jesus emphasized.

### **John 3:3-6 (NIV)**

**3** In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” **4** “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” **5** Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Jesus came into the world to save us from our sins and yet, we must respond:

### **John 1:10-13 (NIV)**

**10** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. **11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. **12** Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— **13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. As we receive Christ this reception is likened to a marriage:

### **Ephesians 4:25-27, 32 (NIV)**

**25** Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. **26** “In your anger do not sin” : Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, **27** and do not give the devil a foothold.**32** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

We are told that at the completion of history and we stand before God that there is going to be a wedding supper:

### **Revelation 19:5-9 (NIV)**

**5** Then a voice came from the throne, saying: “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!” **6** Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. **7** Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. **8** Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) **9** Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

So take this to heart as we are reading here in this passage!

## **II. THE WARNING OF REJECTING THE INVITATION AND NOT COMING AS REQUIRED (VERSES 7, 11-13)**

### **Matthew 22:7, 11-13 (NIV)**

**7** The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. **11** “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. **12** ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless. **13** “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.’”

We are told that we are eternal beings. God made us for eternity! There are only two places to go: Heaven or hell. God is not willing that anyone should go to hell! Listen to these passages:

### **Ezekiel 18:30-32 (NIV)**

**30** “Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent! Turn away from all

your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. **31** Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? **32** For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!

### **II Peter 3:8-9 (NIV)**

**8** But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. **9** The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

So we must respond to the invitation! We also must come as God calls us to, not on our own terms as is represented by the individual without wedding clothes! What's that all about?

When we come to faith in total surrender we are told that Jesus Christ's righteousness is our covering! Listen to these passages:

### **II Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)**

**21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### **Galatians 3:26-27 (NIV)**

**26** You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, **27** for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

### **Romans 3:21-26 (NIV)**

**21** But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. **22** This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. **25** God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— **26** he did it to demonstrate his

justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. And our passage in Revelation brings out:

**Revelation 19:7-8 (NIV)**

**7 LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD AND GIVE HIM GLORY! FOR THE WEDDING OF THE LAMB HAS COME, AND HIS BRIDE HAS MADE HERSELF READY. 8 FINE LINEN, BRIGHT AND CLEAN, WAS GIVEN HER TO WEAR.” (FINE LINEN STANDS FOR THE RIGHTEOUS ACTS OF THE SAINTS.)**

So, I don't want to do things my way! I need to do things God's way!

**Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)**

**5** Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; **6** in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

**Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)**

**8** “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. **9** “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**III. THE CALL IS OUT FOR EVERYONE (VERSES 8, 10-14)**

**Matthew 22:8-10, 14 (NIV)**

**8** “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. **9** Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ **10** So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. **14** “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

As the religious leaders and people interested in doing things their own way were soundly warned:

**Matthew 21:31-32 (NIV)**

**31** “Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. **32** For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

**Matthew 11:16-19 (NIV)**

**16** “To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others: **17** “‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’ **18** For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ **19** The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and “sinners.”’” But wisdom is proved right by her actions.”

The message of the gospel is very clear:

**John 3:16-17 (NIV)**

**16** “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

**Conclusion**

God’s call is for everyone; yet, we must decide! God knows the decisions we are going to make! He doesn’t make us decide to do what we do and yet He knows that on that day there will be:

**Revelation 5:9-13 (NIV)**

**9** And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you

purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. **10** You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” **11** Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. **12** In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” **13** Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

### **Revelation 7:9-12 (NIV)**

**9** After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. **10** And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” **11** All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

These are amazing passages! God wants us all to be there! So I need to see that making excuses for my actions and lack of response to Jesus is not going to cut it! I need to freely come and receive the free gift of life as is brought out in the end:

### **Revelation 21:9-14, 22-27 (NIV)**

**9** One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” **10** And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem,

coming down out of heaven from God. **11** It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. **12** It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. **13** There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. **14** The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. **22** I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. **23** The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. **24** The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. **25** On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. **26** The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. **27** Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

### **Revelation 22:12-14, 17 (NIV)**

**12** “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. **13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. **14** “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. **17** The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

Let's pray!