

up their city. ⁸ Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ⁹ Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' ¹⁰ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding *hall* was filled with guests. ¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. ¹² So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴ **"For many are called, but few are chosen."**

MSG (The Message (paraphrase))

¹⁻³ Jesus responded by telling still more stories. "God's kingdom," he said, "is like a king who threw a wedding banquet for his son. He sent out servants to call in all the invited guests. And they wouldn't come! ⁴ "He sent out another round of servants, instructing them to tell the guests, 'Look, everything is on the table, the prime rib is ready for carving. Come to the feast!' ⁵⁻⁷ "They only shrugged their shoulders and went off, one to weed his garden, another to work in his shop. The rest, with nothing better to do, beat up on the messengers and then killed them. The king was outraged and sent his soldiers to destroy those thugs and level their city. ⁸⁻¹⁰ "Then he told his servants, 'We have a wedding banquet all prepared but no guests. The ones I invited weren't up to it. Go out into the busiest intersections in town and invite anyone you find to the banquet.' The servants went out on the streets and rounded up everyone they laid eyes on, good and bad, regardless. And so the banquet was on—every place filled. ¹¹⁻¹³ "When the king entered and looked over the scene, he spotted a man who wasn't properly dressed. He said to him, 'Friend, how dare you come in here looking like that!' The man was speechless. Then the king told his servants, 'Get him out of here—fast. Tie him up and ship him to hell. And make sure he doesn't get back in.' ¹⁴ **"That's what I mean when I say, 'Many get invited; only a few make it.'"**

LUKE 14:15-24 (NIV)

¹⁵ When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God." 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.' ²¹ "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' ²² "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' ²³ "Then the master told his servant, 'Go

out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴ **I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.”**

II. ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT

- A. 2 separate but related parables.
- B. This is a kingdom parable.
- C. This is a fairly complicated parable. We must see the details and the movements in the story, but don't get caught up in them. Parable actually causes more questions than answers.
- D. Decoding:
 - 1. King = God
 - 2. Son = Jesus
 - 3. Wedding Banquet = Salvation, Discipleship
 - 4. First group of invitees – They “refused to come.” Nation of Israel, **“chosen people.”**
 - 5. Second group of invitees – Messengers, prophets. Those invited ignored the invitation. Invitees were rude and discourteous.
 - 6. Third group of invitees – Anybody!! “Whosoever...” Good/Bad. Honored to be there.
- E. Parable should end at verse 10 because vss. 11-13 don't fit. But remember, they don't have to fit.
 - 1. Wedding clothes often provided by the host.
 - 2. What's “wrong” with these verses.

III. LESSONS/SPIRITUAL & LIFE APPLICATIONS/QUESTIONS

- A. The king has a habit of doing good things for his children.
- B. God is always extending the invitation for us to come, but:
 - 1. Do we flat out refuse?
 - 2. Do we ignore the invitation and keep doing what we were doing?
- C. The kingdom/church **“should be”** perpetually **“open for business”** to **ANYBODY!**
 - 1. Are the doors of the church really open to anybody?
 - 2. Are the doors of our hearts open to anybody?
- D. What kind of clothes should we wear to church? What is the principle?
- E. Don't skip over the reality of God's judgment.
- F. What does this **“called/invited/chosen”** thing mean?

For Next Week:

[THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS](#) - Matthew 25:1-12

Next Week's Bible Study Will Be Back in the Dining Room at the Church.

Join us on the St. Matthew Prayer Line tomorrow morning at 6:30 am

(515) 604-9855, Access Code 886823#