

## Get Ready for the Wedding Feast

Matthew 22.1-14

Jesus spoke of His coming kingdom in terms of fish nets, seeds, plants, hidden treasure, and masters and slaves, but the parable of the wedding feast points to a time of great celebration. Christians look forward with anticipation to this time, but Jesus warns us to be dressed properly.

The Parable, Part 1: Those Invited to the Feast (1-10)

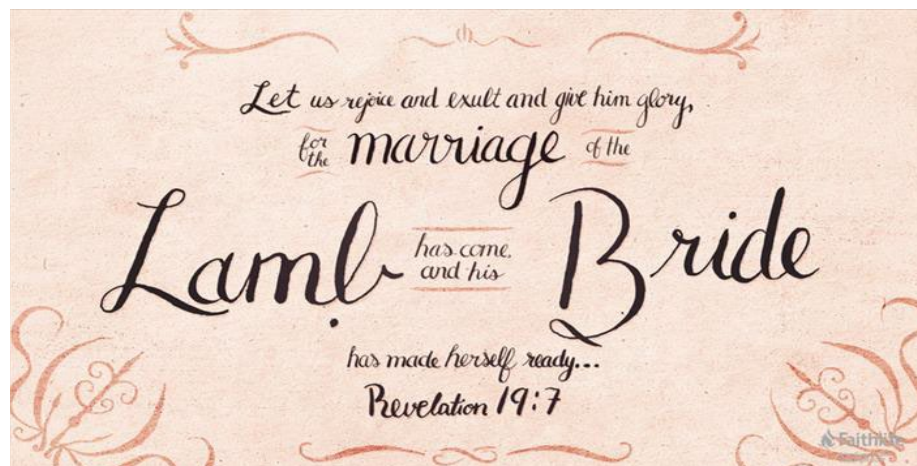
- Invited guests reject invitation, kill messengers (1-6)
- King destroys these rebels and burns their city (7)
- Others accept the invitation and attend the feast (8-10)

The Parable, Part 2: Those Expelled from the Feast (11-14)

- Some guests not dressed properly for the feast (11-12)
- These are sent to the darkness outside the feast (13)
- “Many are called, but few are chosen” (14)

Preparing for the Coming Kingdom

- Don’t reject your invitation: Believe on the Lord Jesus.
- You’re invited, so put on ‘clothes of righteousness.’
- The tragedy of missing out on rewards in the kingdom.



1. Jesus spoke parables incorporating the imagery of a wedding feast (Matt. 22.1-14; 25.1-13; cf. Luke 14.15-24). and other scriptures portray the kingdom in similar terms (see Isa. 25.6; Matt. 8.11). In addition, Scripture refers to Christ as bridegroom or husband, and the church as His bride or wife (Mk. 2.19-20; Jn. 3.29; 2 Cor. 11.2; Eph. 5.22-32; Rev. 21.2, 9; 22.17). Finally, the Book of Revelation records at the culmination of the Great Tribulation a grand event called “the marriage of the Lamb” and declares, “Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb” (Rev. 19.7-9). Contemporary culture has drifted away from respect for marriage, but the God who instituted marriage has not! What significance do you see in the imagery of marriage for our lives, and the future?
2. The parable of the wedding feast is part of a larger narrative that begins in Matt. 21, and goes on into Matt. 23. Read Mt. 21.23-46: What is the attitude of the Jewish religious leaders to Jesus? Read Mt. 22.15-46: What are they trying to do to Him? What phrase is repeated by Jesus throughout Mt. 23 (see vv. 13, 14, 15, 16, etc.)? Now consider: The parable of the wedding feast is in the middle of all this! In the parable, who does the king represent? Who does his son represent? Who are those who were invited but unwilling to come? What happens to them? What event might the judgment of setting their city on fire (v7) refer to? Who are the people who are invited and came to the feast in vv9-10? Consider John 1.10-12.
3. All the guests at the wedding feast have accepted the invitation of the king. What does this tell us about them (see Jn. 3.3)? The issue in Mt. 22.11-14 is that some guests are not appropriately dressed. What do the proper wedding clothes refer to (Rev. 19.7-8)? What happens to guests who do not have these clothes? Here, we need to be careful not to read more than is intended. Some rush to declare that disobedient guests are sent to hell! Jesus describes an event that is associated with the kingdom, which some of the guests will be excluded from because they lack “righteous acts of the saints.” Whatever this event entails (and we can only imagine!), how awful would it be to be an invited guest, then forced to leave?