

Matthew 22:1-14
A Prince's Wedding

The celebration is ready ...

- I. A Royal Invite
 - A. A Prince's Wedding
 - B. Expectations & Surprises
 - C. Feast or Fire
- II. A Kingdom Proclamation
 - A. The Son Has Come
 - B. The Cry Has Sounded
 - C. Who is Responding?
- III. The Gospel Broadcast
 - A. The General Call
 - B. Definitive Replies
 - 1. Rejection
 - 2. Presumption
 - 3. Inclusion
 - C. Lasting Consequences

... who will attend?

Children, Listen ...

1. Who is holding a wedding?
2. Do the first people invited come?
3. Who ends up at the wedding celebration?
4. How does this parable remind us of the way people act when they hear about Jesus?

A Demanding RSVP

There are many surprises and elements of shock and awe in Jesus' parable. In it, Jesus indirectly illustrates the reaction of His contemporaries to the call to believe in Him. Many considered most likely to embrace the Christ and His Kingdom reject it, while many folks most unlikely to receive the honor of inclusion end up participating in the grand celebration ... and there's that one guy who takes it upon himself to slip in on his own accord. The guests can rejoice with the King at His Son's wedding – while those who coldly, and in some cases violently, rejected the invitation are demolished along with their city. The parable immediately pertained to that day as many who seemed likely to embrace the Messiah rejected Him, while many "sinners" humbly received Him as Lord. There is cause for believers to celebrate, but not all could do so. The imminent destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD is unquestionably in view in Jesus' foreboding statement about "their city." But the parable also applies to the bigger picture of the day of grace in which the Gospel is proclaimed and people are called to respond: some are indifferent, others respond with violence and still others with humility, faith and deep appreciation. A day is coming when the wedding feast of the Lamb will be in full swing filled with multitudes of joyous participants clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Conversely, the presumptuous, the indifferent and those antagonistic to the Gospel will go down with the city of Babylon as she is consumed by divine wrath for her brazen defiance of God and His Son. It behooves one and all to soberly consider the Call of the Gospel and to appropriately reply.