REJECTION OF AND FROM THE KINGDOM
Matthew 22:1-14

Introduction:
1. McGarvey calls this "the parable of the royal wedding."
2. Context of mounting tension:
   a. Triumphal entry into Jerusalem
   b. Had attacked the merchandising in temple 2nd time
   c. The chief priests, scribes, elders, Pharisees didn't like it.
      Mt. 21:15, 23, 45-46.
3. Series of three parables
4. After second parable the chief priests and Pharisees perceived
   He spoke of them and sought to lay hands on Him.
5. In these 3 parables, Jesus plainly prophesied that He would be
   rejected and killed by the Jews; they in turn would be rejected
   from the kingdom of God, and the kingdom would go to the Gentiles.
6. Several lessons to be gathered from this parable.

I. A FEAST OF GOOD THINGS:
   A. Marriage feast of oxen, fatlings « plenty of good things
   B. Salvation the ultimate feast « those who partake of this feast:
      1. Earthly sustenance « Mt. 6:33
      2. Care of providence « Rom. 8:28
      3. Care of angels « Heb. 1:14
      4. Eternal life « 1 Cor. 15:53; Mk 16:16; Rev. 2:10;
         Tree in garden in heaven « Rev. 22

II. ALL THINGS ARE READY:
   A. All the OT prophecies fulfilled in Christ and Church.
   B. Invitation went forth only after all things ready « Gal. 4:4.
   C. Lack of desire to attend this feast is wrong!
   D. Must develop within ourselves a taste for that feast «
      Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6

III. IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE INVITED:
   A. First group's heart was out of tune with the King's «
      He wanted to bless them and they refused it.
   B. Did not consider the riches and superiority of the King.
   C. Their brazen attitude was wrong « and so are we if we treat
      with contempt the invitation of our Lord.
   D. We must consider our true condition:
      1. Enemies of God because of sin « Col. 1:21; Rom. 3:23
      2. Wages of that sin « Rom. 6:23
      3. Salvation from wages is by grace « Eph. 2:8-10.
   E. An honor to be invited!

IV. IT IS AN OBLIGATION TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION:
   A. Man may have a "natural" right to refuse it « free will.
   B. Man may have a "legal" right to refuse it « No government
      on earth can force us.
   C. But no scriptural right to reject Christ « Heb. 10:29.
   D. This obligation does not begin only after we have accepted the
      invitation:
      1. Man's obligation to seek God « Acts 17:27
      2. All obligated to be disciples of Christ « Mt. 28:18-20
      3. No one has right to commit and then to stay in sin!
         1 Jn 2:1
V. MEN TOO BUSY WITH OTHER THINGS THEY VALUE:

   A. Farm, merchandise, etc., more important than King's feast.
   B. We need the mind of Christ to value as He values.
      1. Human life more valuable than food that sustains « Mt. 6:25.
      2. Human body more important than clothes to cover it.
      3. Human soul more important than the body in which it dwells
   C. Some men so busy in body they are asleep in soul.

VI. NOT CONTENT TO REFUSE « SOME RIDICULE INVITE

   A. "...they made light of it."
   B. "Men cannot make successful assault on truth to turn to ridiculing.
   C. Seek other men's approval in their sin and lack of obedience « easy to find « "Broad is the way that leads to destruction"

VII. MEN JUDGE THEMSELVES UNWORTHY OF SALVATION:

   A. Jews found themselves in such a position « Acts 13:46
   B. Did not realize it.
   C. Have you made the same judgment on yourself? Ignorantly?

VIII. NOT ENOUGH JUST TO ACCEPT « WE MUST COMPLY:

   A. Check your coat! Mt. 22:11.
   B. Robe of white given by God « Rev. 7:9-14; 16:15.
   C. Watch « repent « confess
   D. For many are called « but few chosen.