

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.