



Teachings of the Teacher – A study in the parables of Jesus
The Parables of the Banquets

Matthew 22:1-14 and Luke 14:15-24

Lesson 11

Although the parable of the great banquet and the parable of the wedding feast have many similarities, they are different stories, spoken at different times. In one we have a king preparing a marriage for his son. In the other, we are told of a certain man who gave a great supper. To excuse oneself from such invitations would be completely unnatural. In real life, a royal invitation is not refused. Yet, those first invited, the Jews, claimed to accept the ways of God, but refused the Way, Jesus. It is wise to ask, "where do I fit?" when reading a parable. Although the first invitees were the Jews, the excuses many make today are the same, and sadly, so are the consequences. All glory to Him for inviting *both the bad and the good*.

OBSERVATION: Read Matthew 22:1-14 and Luke 14:15-24

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
2. Key words help us to better understand a parable. We have listed below key words of these parables. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. As you mark key words, mark any personal pronouns or other words that refer to the key word (i.e. words used to refer to *Jesus* or those *invited* or *inviting*, etc.).
Key Words: *God*, words that refer to Jesus, those who were "first" *invited*, those who did the *inviting*, *invited/come*, *supper/wedding/marriage*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used five times in the parable recorded in Matthew 22:1-14 and once in Luke 14:18. Mark each time this word is used. Choose one of the times this word is used. Record what is being contrasted and the significance of the contrast.

4. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, is used once in each parable. Mark each time this word is used. Note the use of *therefore* in Matthew 22:9. What was the conclusion stated by the king and what was that conclusion based upon?

CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. How does it feel when you plan a party and it is poorly attended?
2. Describe what feels like when someone makes an excuse that you feel is invalid.
3. Why do you think people make excuses?

THE INVITATION: Read Matthew 22:1-4 and Luke 14:15-17

1. Note the statement made by *one of those who sat at the table* (Luke 14:15). What did he say?
 - a. This remark was made in response to Jesus' statement in the prior verse, *for you shall be repaid in the resurrection of the just*. The religious leaders continued to have the false assurance that they would be among those in attendance at the feast in heaven. Read Matthew 21:42-46, the verses prior to our parable in Matthew 22:1-4. What was Jesus' warning to them in Matthew 21:43?
 - b. Jesus followed the false confidence of the chief priest and Pharisees with these parables of the banquet and the wedding feast. He described the invitation and those who would accept it. According to Matthew 22:4 and Luke 14:17, what was the invitation?

1.) What are your thoughts when you consider the word *come*?

2.) Using the following verses, record God's invitations:

Isaiah 1:18

Isaiah 55:1-3

Matthew 11:28

John 7:37

Revelation 22:17

a.) What can we learn from these verses?

2. Review Matthew 22:4 and Luke 14:16,17. What do you observe about the master's/king's preparations?

a. What does this reveal about the importance of the banquet to him?

b. Given that the master/king is God, what do these parables reveal about the importance of celebrating with His *guests* in heaven?

THE EXCUSES: Read Matthew 22:5-6 and Luke 14:18-20

1. Those *invited* were *not willing* (Matthew 22:3), *made light of it* (the invitation, Matthew 22:5), *went their ways* (Matthew 22:5), and *began to make excuses* (Luke 14:18). List the excuses which they made:

a. Each of these excuses are important obligations. In what ways do these excuses reflect attitudes of being *not willing* and *making light of it*?

2. Luke 9:59-62 records the invitation of Jesus to *follow Me*. Record the two excuses given.

a. Read Matthew 4:19-22 and Matthew 9:9. What were the responses of these followers of Jesus?

- 1.) What attitudes do you think provoked such contrary responses?

3. Jesus has also called us to follow Him. What are some daily examples of accepting His invitation?
 - a. What are some excuses you find yourself saying?

4. Although some made *excuses*, what does Matthew 22:6 tell us *the rest* did?
 - a. Summarize Jesus' lament in Matthew 23:34-37.

THE SECOND INVITATION: Read Matthew 22:7-10 and Luke 14:21-23

1. Although the master/king was asked to *excuse* those whom he *invited*, he did not *excuse* any of them. Rather, what was his emotional response?

2. However, he did not cancel his plans for the banquet. What did he tell his *servants* to do?
 - a. What was his goal? Luke 14:23c

3. Ponder the glorious words of Matthew 22:9-10. What qualifications were required to be able to come to the party?
 - a. Reflect upon these qualifications as you underline and highlight these phrases: *as many as you find, all whom they found, and both bad and good.*
*Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'*¹ 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.*
 - 1.) What are some of your thoughts as you consider the fact that you (if you have accepted His invitation) will be among those *guests*?

2.) What must a person do to *accept* God's invitation to His *wedding feast* in heaven?

Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer

THE WEDDING GARMENT: Read Matthew 22:11-12

1. What did the king see when he *came to see the guests*?
 - a. Notice the man's reaction. Why do you think unbelievers will be *speechless* when they stand before Jesus?

2. Read Zephaniah 1:7-8. What are the similarities of these verses with this portion of the parable of the *wedding banquet*?

3. This man did not have on the proper *wedding* attire. Revelation 19:8 refers to the *bride of Christ* (all believers). What will she be wearing?
 - a. Record the words of Isaiah 61:10.

 - b. Consider a time you were invited to a wedding. What would it have been like to know that you would be wearing the perfect *garment*?

THE REJECTION OF THE REJECTORS: Read Matthew 22:13-14 and Luke 14:24

1. What will be the consequences of trying to attend the wedding without the *wedding garment*? Matthew 22:13
 - a. Why can't someone enter heaven on their own terms?

2. What will be the consequences of rejecting the master's invitation? Luke 14:24

3. Note the concluding statement of Matthew 22:14. In light of this parable, what do you think Jesus was teaching here?

REVIEW: Read Matthew 22:1-14 and Luke 14:15-24

1. Briefly share when you discovered the value of Jesus' invitation to you?
2. How would you describe your reactions when you realized Jesus was calling you – like those who offered excuses or like those who quickly followed? Why?
3. What are some concerns people have when invited to follow Jesus?
4. Personal: In what areas of your life have you been putting off a response to what God has asked you to do?
5. How does our responsibility to God correspond to the servant's role?
6. In what ways have you been challenged by this lesson?

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,
for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,
for the Jew first and also for the Greek,
- Romans 1:16*

Observation Worksheet

Matthew 22:1-14

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: ²"The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, ³and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. ⁴Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' ⁵But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. ⁶And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. ⁷But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ⁹Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'¹⁰So 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. ¹¹But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. ¹²So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. ¹³Then 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.' ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen."

Luke 14:15-24

Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!" ¹⁶Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, ¹⁷and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.'¹⁸But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.'¹⁹And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'²⁰Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'²¹So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.'²²And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.'²³Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.' "