

Reading & Prayer

Parable of the Marriage Feast

22 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying, ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. ³And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come. ⁴Again he sent out other slaves saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited, “Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast.”’ ⁵But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, ⁶and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them. ⁷But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?’ And the man was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Revelation 19:7-9 7

Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” ⁸It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

⁹Then he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.

start reading. read together the main scripture for this study

read the scripture

In reading these verses of scripture, what would you circle, highlight, or underline as important to know or understand? Is there anything you noticed for the first time?

Is there one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses upon you? Meditate on that.

start thinking. ask a thoughtful question

When I (Douglas) read this parable and concentrate on the one man who is kicked out of the wedding feast for lacking "wedding clothes," I think to myself "**the king must know something that I do not!**" As the king is the representative character for God/Father, I must concede that my lack of understand matters little - I can only trust that this king acts with the righteousness, justice, fairness, mercy, and integrity of the perfect God he represents. Amidst the many guests who came in off the street, the one man has managed to come in against the **terms of the king**.

How do we judge rightly that we have *not just* come into the kingdom of God, but that we come under God's terms?

Read John 10:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:5-10

start sharing. engage it with your story

What specific situation in your life relates today? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

What did the Holy Spirit speak to you personally about during the sermon? Was there anything that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

In what ways do you simply have to **trust the king** because He knows what's best - He knows our thoughts, heart, and intentions. Psalm 26:2, 38:9, 44:21. Proverbs 21:2

Can you recall a time when you have changed your mind / beliefs / attitudes / or actions to align with God's kingdom?

start practicing. commit to a next step and live it out this week

How do you practice "not my will, but Yours"?

How do you realign beliefs from unbiblical to biblical?

start praying. be bold and pray with power