

PARABLES—Section 4, Part 7

Matthew 22:1-14

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1. The widespread and trendy acceptance of Jesus was, for the most part, superficial. When the people finally realized He had no intention of delivering them from Rome, the applause quickly turned to rejection.
2. The nation's leaders understood that Jesus was speaking about them in His parables (Matthew 21:45). But He was also speaking of the general population who had flipped back and forth in their acceptance of Him.
3. 22:2 The Kingdom of God/Heaven is a continuing, ongoing sphere of all of God's rule.
4. 22:2 In the way that Jesus used the phrase, it represented the community of God's redeemed, those under His Lordship in a personal way.
5. 22:3, 5 The guests had known about the wedding for months and had already accepted the invitation. Their response was nothing other than an intentional, insulting snub.
6. 22:5-6 Those who rejected the invitation are divided into two groups:
 - Indifferent—There are those who have no real reason for their rejection; they simply do not care. Some are willing to forfeit the honor of being in the King's presence in exchange for temporal, self-serving activities.
 - Brutal—Rather than worrying about offending the King, these guests were offended at the King's persistence. Those who demonstrate contempt for the King's messenger are actually revealing their contempt for the King Himself.
7. 22:7 God's patience has its limits.
8. 22:7 The King not only eliminated those responsible, but also took away the possibility of future generations rising up against the King's purposes.
9. 22:8 The invitation was not based on merit, but on the King's gracious favor.

10. 22:9 Those the King was now inviting were the last people who would expect to find themselves as guests at a royal banquet (see Matthew 28:19; Hosea 2:23).
11. 22:10 The King extends His call to both evil and good, because both are equally in need of a Savior. Jesus welcomes people whom others would never want to include.
12. 22:10 What makes a person worthy? A willingness to hear the invitation, to receive the invitation, and to act on the invitation by putting their personal faith in Jesus Christ, thereby receiving freely God's righteousness.
13. 22:11-12 That all of the other guests were appropriately dressed indicates that the King did make provision for the right clothing. But this man decided he did not need what the King provided. He presumed he could come in on his own terms.
14. 22:11-12 The proper robe of a true believer is God's righteousness, imputed to us without works of our own. Without the clothing of God's righteous, no one can be in the Kingdom of God.
15. 22:13-14 Those who hear God's call must not think that a call is the same as a response. While many hear the call, few are chosen because few respond.
16. 22:14 God not only demands robes of righteousness, but He also offers freely the very thing He requires (Isaiah 61:10).

GREEK WORDS

Ameleo (am-el-eh'-o)—to be careless of: — make light of, neglect, no regard

QUOTES

"That building [the Temple], God long ago had sentenced to the flames; but now in the revolution of the time periods the fateful day had arrived, the very day on which previously it had been burned by the king of Babylon.... One of the soldiers, neither awaiting orders nor filled with horror of so dread an undertaking, but moved by some supernatural impulse, snatched a brand from the blazing timber and, hoisted up by one of his fellow soldiers, flung the fiery missile through a golden window.... When the flame arose, a scream, as poignant as the tragedy, went up from the Jews ... now that the object which before they had guarded so closely was going to ruin.... While the sanctuary was burning, ... neither pity for age nor respect for rank was shown; on the contrary, children and old people, laity and priests alike were massacred.... The emperor ordered the entire city and sanctuary to be razed to the ground...." ~Josephus

