

Discussion and Reflection Questions
Formed for the Benefit of Others - Week 3
Sunday 15th of October 2023

Read:: Matthew 22.1-14

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹ ‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.’

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. Has focusing on these parables over the last few weeks taught you anything new about parables or revealed anything that you had not considered before?
2. Jesus location is in the temple and his audience is likely male Israelites, some of whom were the religious elite. How does your audience effect what you say & how you say it?
3. Is it important to understand Jesus’ audience to help understand this parable? Does this parable have a message to people who weren’t there?
4. How important is invitation in general life? How important is it in a person’s faith journey?
5. Have you ever felt over or under-dressed at an event or occasion?
6. Why do you think the king is so harsh on the guys without the robe? How does this personally challenge you?
7. What do you think Jesus means in verse 14?

Prayer

Saving and healing God,
you have promised
that those who have died with Christ shall live with him:
grant us grace to be continually thankful for all you have done for us,
and in that thankfulness
to be eager to serve and live for others,
so that we and all your children may rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.