



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Our lesson for today is The Wedding Feast as found in Matthew 22:1-14

- This parable is one of the most powerful of all of our Lord's parables.
 - It is a parable about a royal wedding feast.
 - And has far reaching complications.

- For three years
He has been
preaching and teaching
the gospel of the Kingdom.
- He has been proclaiming
Himself as the Messiah,
 - The Son of God,
- The Savior of the world.

- This event takes place on Wednesday of the last week of our Lord's life and ministry.

- Friday

He will be crucified.

- Sunday

He will rise
from the dead.

- The religious leaders are threatened because He speaks of an internal righteousness.
- He speaks of a true salvation that they know nothing about in their external self-righteous religion.
- And He is a threat to their system.

- As He moves about the temple teaching, He is confronted by these religious leaders.
- They stop Him and they ask Him,
 - **"By what authority do you do these things and who gave You this authority?"**
(Matthew 21:23)

- **Matthew 22:2**

The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

- Jesus always talked about the **Kingdom of heaven.**

- He never let the Jewish leaders **trap him into talking about anything else.**

- The Kingdom of Heaven is:
- a dominion where God rules,
- where God is sovereign,
- where God is King.
- It is a dominion of redemption.
- It is the sphere of God's gracious salvation.

- To describe that kingdom **Jesus teaches a parable.**
- A wedding in those days **normally lasted seven days.**
- And if you were **a king**, it could go on way beyond that.
- So God's kingdom **is everlasting.**

- It was one glorious celebration.
 - It was the highlight of life as any wedding is today.
 - And a wedding made by a king for his son would be the wedding of all weddings.

- And what our Lord is identifying here is the greatest celebration those people could imagine.

- And He is saying the Kingdom of heaven is like:
- the greatest celebration imaginable
 - thrown by the wealthiest person imaginable
- for the most honored person imaginable.
- He wants to capture all the best that life could ever imagine to give.
- And so He says there was a king who made a wedding feast for his son.

- It is a parables by which our Lord describes the basis of God's judgment upon those who despise the blessings and privileges of God's grace.

- In the parable of
 - The two sons
(Matthew 20:28-32),
 - Of the vineyard
(Matthew 20:33-34),
- Of the marriage feast
(Matthew 22:1-14)
 - Our Savior shows us why God cast off the nation of Israel
- And sent the gospel to the Gentiles.

➤ Without question,
it was God's purpose
from eternity
to include the Gentiles
for salvation.

➤ **Genesis 22:18**

• **And in thy seed**
shall all the nations
of the earth be blessed.

➤ Yet, the cause of divine judgment upon that nation **was** and **is** their **unbelief**.

- **Romans 10:3**

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

- The gospel was **first revealed** to the Jews, the nation of Israel,
- In the **types** and **shadows.** (**Colossians 2:17**)
- To Israel alone God gave
 - **The law,**
 - **The priesthood,**
 - **The tabernacle,**
 - **The prophets.**

- When Christ came, he preached the gospel to none but the “lost sheep of the house of Israel”.

(Matthew 10:6)

- Notice the words:
 - “Lost sheep.”

- The sheep had wandered from their Shepherd, and were lost.
- Lost because of “blind leaders”
- Matthew 15:14

- Being blinded by their religious leaders, they despised the privileges of mercy God gave them,
- The gospel of his grace,
 - and his dear Son.

- Though they feverishly adhered to the rites and ceremonies of the law,
- They had long rejected the message of God's prophets.

- When John the Baptist came preparing “the way of the Lord”, they ignored him.
(Matthew 3:3)
- When God’s own Son came, they crucified Him.

- And when God sent the apostles to proclaim the message.
- They rejected that message,
 - Imprisoned them,
 - Beat them,
 - Murdered them.

- In 70 AD
the Roman army,
under the command of Titus,
invaded Jerusalem.
- By his hand both
Jerusalem
and the
nation of Israel
were destroyed.

- The house of Israel was left **“desolate”**.
- **Matthew 23:38**
- Their light was turned **into darkness forever.**

- Never again
would that nation
have a word from God
or a visitation of his grace.
- God said to his servants,
“Israel will not hear.
Leave her alone”.
(Ezekiel 3:7)

- Israel
rejected God.
Therefore God
rejected Israel.

- Israel
despised the light
God had given her.
- Therefore God
withdrew the light.

- Israel despised and rejected God's Son.
- Therefore God cast her off forever.
- God's judgment upon the nation of Israel stands as a beacon to warn us.

- An awesome weight of responsibility lies upon the shoulders of all who hear.

- It will be to all either a savor of life unto life or of death unto death (2 Corinthians 2:15-17)

- The same sun
that melts
the candle
hardens the clay.

- The same message that **melts** the believer's heart.
 - **Hardens** the unbeliever's heart.

- In this parable of The Marriage Feast our Savior teaches us seven things.

- **# 1** The salvation proclaimed in the gospel is comparable to a marriage feast. (Matthew 22:2)

- At a marriage feast everything is provided for the guests.
- They are not expected to bring anything.
- It would be an insult for them to do so.

- In the gospel of Christ there is complete provision for all the needs of salvation.
- Everything needed to relieve spiritual hunger and thirst is found in Christ.

- Pardon of sin,
- Peace with God,
- The hope of eternal life
are all spread before us
in rich abundance
in the gospel.

- **# 2** Our Lord Jesus here reminds us that the invitations of the gospel are **full, free, unlimited**.
- **“All things are ready, come to the feast”**
(**Matthew 22:4**).

- There is nothing lacking.
- No conditions are to be met by us.
- “All things are ready!”

- The gospel sets an open door before all sinners, and says, **“Come.”**

- **No one is excluded** from the range of its invitation.

- **“Whosoever will, let him come and take of the water of life freely.”**
(Revelation 22:17)

- Though only few
enter in by the
straight gate,
all are bidden to enter.
- And all who enter
find that
“all things are ready”.

- **# 3** Our Savior also teaches us that the gospel of the grace of God is flatly rejected by many who hear it.

- **Matthew 22:5**

**They made light of it,
and went their ways,
one to his farm,
another to his merchandise:**

- Most of those people who hear the gospel receive no spiritual benefit from it.
- The preaching of the gospel profits them nothing.
- They feel no need for Christ.

- They show their contempt by their love of other things, by their love of the world, which is enmity against God.

- Their hearts are full of this world, so full of the pleasures and cares of the world that there is no room for Christ.

- (Luke 2:7)

- Money and property,
fashion and pleasure,
happiness
and
popularity
are the things
that interest them.

- Christ and his gospel simply have no appeal to them.

- Acts 17:32

- **And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some ridiculed, while others said, We will hear you again concerning this matter.**

- The sad fact is, multitudes will find themselves in hell, not because they were grossly immoral, but because they loved the world and gave no consideration to the Son of God.

- **# 4** The vast majority of those who take up a profession of religion are walking in the broad way that leads to destruction (**Mat 7:13-14;21-23**).

- **Our Lord did not say**
that he was
without a garment.
- No doubt he was clothed,
as many are,
in a righteousness
of his own.

- **Romans 10:3**

For they being **ignorant** of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have **not submitted** themselves unto the righteousness of God.

- His crime was that he was not wearing the garment of **Christ's righteousness.**
(Romans 3:22)

- Many would have us believe that this wedding garment is the good works of a holy life.

- If we appear before God in any other at that great day, we shall, like this man,

- be speechless,

- and shall be cast

- “into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

- (Matthew 22:13)

- **# 5** On the day of judgment, all false professors will be detected, exposed, and eternally condemned (Matthew 22:12-13).

- In this life
a profession of faith
and a fairly moral life
is enough to secure
a name and reputation
as a Christian.

- But when we stand before God, he will examine us thoroughly and judge us according to strict justice by those things written in the **Book of LIFE.** (Revelation 20:12).

- If we are not washed in the blood of Christ and robed with his righteousness, we will be lost forever.
(Revelation 7:14)

- **Revelation 21:27** (KJV)

- **And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

- **# 6** “**For many are called, but few are chosen.**”

- Every time the pure gospel is preached, **sinners are called to obey.**
(**2 Corinthians 5:20**).

- The call of the gospel is universal in its scope.
 - Issued by divine authority (Matthew 28:19-20)

- **# 7 Sinners respond**
to the preaching
of the gospel
in many ways.

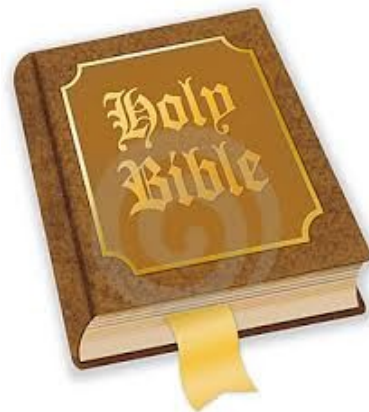
- Some flatly reject the gospel call
(Matthew 22:3).
- Some lightly esteem it
(Mat 22:5; Lam 1:12).
- Others are enraged by it
(Matthew 22:6).

- **What
is
your
response?**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 09-30-2018 Tryon, NC