

May 27, 2018

Matthew 22:1-14

- Jesus uses the analogy of marriage because it most vividly expressed the union between God and His people through the old covenant.
- The Bible begins with a marriage and closes with a marriage feast (Rev. 19:9).
- Israel was God's special nation, called by Him to proclaim His Name to all the nations.

Ex 3:7-8 The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey..."

- When did the Lord call Israel to be His people?

Eph 1:4a For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight...

- Why did the Lord call Israel to be His people?

Eph 1:4b-5 In love 5 He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will...

- Israel would be the spiritual bride of his Son through the stipulations of the old covenant inaugurated at Sinai. However, Israel began its relationship by rejecting the Lord's leadership through Moses and Aaron.

Num 11:20 ...you have rejected the Lord...

- They grumbled against the Lord's leadership (Ex. 15:24; 16:2; 17:3; Num. 14:2, 29; 16:41).
- Expressing unbelievable patience, the king sends more servants to call his guests to the wedding feast of his son (v. 4). This statement summarizes the ministry of the prophets who were sent to Israel to administer the stipulations of the old covenant.
- Instead of responding to the king, they rejected his patience and kindness (v. 5-6).

***Rom 2:4-5** Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? 5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed*

- For them life's call was louder and more alluring than the King's call (1 John 2:15-17).
- However, this time the king responded by sending in his army (2 Kings 17). The Lord called in the Assyrians in 701 B.C. (Is. 7:17) and then the Babylonians and 586 B.C. (Jer. 34:2) and then, finally, the Romans in 70 A.D.
- Israel consider its worth and acceptance by God based on their ethnicity as God's chosen people. This was the issue which Jesus was referencing in John 8:39. But, in the parable, their worth had to do with their reception of the king's son.
- These are the ones whom God makes worthy by calling them to the wedding feast of His Son by the Gospel.

***2 Thess 1:11** To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling...*

- And this worth is the result of God's love for them, not the result of race or any other such thing (Deut. 7:8).
- Now, all of those who received the king's call gathered together for the feast, each one wearing his new wedding garment. These garments were the garments of salvation.

Is. 61:10 *I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of [Christ's] Righteousness...*

Luke 15:21-22 *"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him..."*

- Jesus was telling the Pharisees' that they were depending upon their own righteousness for entrance into the wedding feast. But to the king, their righteousness was as "filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6).

Rom. 3:10 *...there is none Righteousness, no not one...22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe...*

The saints in heaven ...were wearing white robes... these saints are...the clouds of heaven... (Dan. 7:14; Mark 14:62)

- Entrance into this Banquet was by invitation only:

John 10:25-27 *I told you, and you do not believe... 26 but you do not believe because you are not part of My flock. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me...*