

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sermon: All Things for our Good and Predestination, Part 5
Topic: The Invited
Scripture Text: Matthew 22:1–14
6/30/2019

Matthew 22:1–14 (NKJV) 1 And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, 3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. 4 Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.”’ 5 But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. 6 And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. 7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ 10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 “But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. 12 So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Speaker – Jesus V1

Speaking to and about - chief priests and Pharisees (*Matthew 21:45*)

Parable - He spoke in a parable which followed other parables directed at the Jews. (V1).

A story or saying that illustrates a truth using comparison, hyperbole, or simile. Can be a model, analogy, or example.¹ A very similar parable was told in *Luke 14:16-23*.

Kingdom of heaven – Used only in the gospel of Mathew. (others used “kingdom of God”). The spiritual realm over which God reigns as king,

King – God. God represents the parent of the groom. As the king he chooses who the Son will marry. He elected those to the church to be the bride of Christ. The King also prepares everything and later we will see that He even provides the garments for the guest to wear.

Son – Bridegroom is Jesus

His servants – Prophets (*Matt 23:31*), Preachers, Proclaimers and teachers of the gospel and the church.

V3 Call those who were invited – **This group seem different from “The called”** (*Rom 8:28*)

Revelation 19:9 (NKJV) 9 Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”

This is not the bride (the church) but the guests. The bride doesn’t get invited; she invites. 2

¹ Seal, D. (2016). [Parable](#). In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, ... W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

² MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). [The MacArthur Study Bible](#) (electronic ed., p. 2019). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

These are invited guests which include all the faithful believers saved by grace through faith and also will include tribulation saints and believers alive in earthly bodies in the kingdom (JM)

An invitation is given to a person we know well, a person we already have some connection or relationship with. I believe this invitation was given to the Jews because of their favored relationship with God.

Acts 13:46 (NKJV) 46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. (Acts 3:26, Rom 1:16)

A person receiving an invitation has the freewill to accept it or reject it.

Now I believe that there were many Jews and Gentiles that responded to the CALL and were counted among the chosen/Elect.

*Acts 2:7–11 (NKJV) 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? (about 120 disciples in all) 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, **both Jews and proselytes**, 11 **Cretans and Arabs**—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."*

*Acts 2:40–41 (NKJV) 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then **those who gladly received** his word were baptized; **and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.***

I think these three thousand were among "the called". For their hearts being prepared, they heard the gospel one time and believed.

Later in Acts we see more ELECTED Gentiles being saved.

Acts 13:48 (NKJV) 48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord.

And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

To the wedding – Christ is the bridegroom and the church is the bride. *Revelation 19:9 (NKJV) 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who **are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!**' (Revelation 19:7)*

V3 Those that received the invitations rejected it.

V4 he sent out other servants, - demonstrates God persistent invitation. The king has everything prepared, no work by them required. All the guests have to do is come.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV) 8 ... it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

V5 But they made light of it – Those invited mocked and rejected the call. Those are people that heard the gospel but thought it of no import.

If we go back to the scene in Acts, we see an example of this.

Acts 2:12–13 (NKJV) 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" 13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

V5 went their ways, - Man has always thought he was smarter than God. Either through unbelief or in rebellion to do things their way being concerned about the things of the world.

Luke 8:14 (NKJV) 14 Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

And the rest seized his servants – These seem to be a group within the group that rejected the invitation.

V7 All those that rejected the invitation were not murders, perhaps those marked for destruction from the beginning.

Or, this is the time that some were counted among the vessels of wrath. He sent out his armies, **destroyed those murderers**, and burned up their city.

Many commentators believe this referred to the coming of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman army.

V8 but those who were invited were not worthy.

When man reject Jesus Christ, he is no longer worthy of Gods invitation. They insulted the King of Glory and the King brought destruction upon them.

V9 Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.

As a result, the king sent out a general invitation to everyone (Including Gentiles). The invitation was nondiscriminatory all that had to be done was for the others to do was the same as the first invitees needed to do and that was to accept the invitation. They were invited just as the others were. This is where we apply the term of *John 3:16* of “whosoever”, good or bad. Notice no mention of evil ones.

V11 “But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.

This part refers to a man that wanted to come to the wedding his own way. He was immediately identified as not belonging because he did not have on the proper garment. He was not clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Even today men think they can come to God in their own way, their own righteousness but will suffer loss. He will be cast out into outer darkness where there will be weeping and **gnashing of teeth.**

gnashing of teeth - All these references to weeping and gnashing of teeth have one thing in common—the undeniable fact that those who do not belong to Christ will suffer a terrible fate. Those who reject God will realize in hell what they have truly lost.

Here comes the crux of the whole parable.

V14 “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

I was thinking about this and how to explain it. An idea came to relate to a movie production casting call. They call many to come but only a few are chosen. When a sports team calls for tryouts, they call many but few are chosen.

God is not quite like that. I believe He does call many but some within that call reject it while other accept it and are counted among “The Called”. Case in this passage, the Jews.

Those that accept the call are the ones that are “predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son (*Romans 8:29*). I don’t think that if someone is not initially predestined as the elect, that they cannot still come to Christ and still be conformed to the image of Christ.

Review

1. Chosen people were the bride of Christ, the Church.
2. The rejecters of the invitation were the Jews who were given first opportunity, maybe the first to be called.
3. The people that were of dishonor (destroyed) were the group WITHIN the group of those who rejected the invitation.
4. The ones gathered along the highways are the non -elect Gentiles.
5. Those called to the church are already chosen both Jews and Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 1:24 (NLT) 24 But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Message Scriptures: **Matthew 22:1–14**, *Matthew 21:45, Luke 14:16-23, Matt 23:31, Revelation 19:9, Acts 13:46, Acts 3:26, Rom 1:16, Acts 2:7–11, Acts 2:40–41, Acts 13:48, Revelation 19:9, Revelation 19:7, Ephesians 2:8–9, Acts 2:12–13, Luke 8:14, Romans 8:29), 1 Corinthians 1:24.*

END

King's Invitation to Be Obeyed

Sir Leonard Wood once visited the King of France and the King was so pleased with him; he was invited for dinner the next day.

Sir Leonard went to the palace and the King meeting him in one of the halls, said, "Why, Sir Leonard, I did not expect to see you. How is it that you are here?"

"Did not your majesty invite me to dine with you?" said the astonished guest.

"Yes," replied the King, "but you did not answer my invitation."

Then it was that Sir Leonard Wood uttered one of the choicest sentences of his life. He replied, "A king's invitation is never to be answered, but to be obeyed."³

³ Tan, P. L. (1996). [*Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times*](#) (p. 910). Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc.