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Matthew

Chapter 22:1-15
DRESSED FOR THE WEDDING?

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Last week we looked at “THE REJECTION OF THE RELIGIOUS” in Chapter 21 of Matthew.

1. Jesus leaned heavily on his brethren (the Jews) for rejecting John The Baptist and therefore Jesus Himself. But most of it was directed at the Priests who asked Him the question:
 - a) **Matthew 21:23 (NKJV) — 23** Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?”
 - b) Jesus put them in a “double-bind” by saying He would answer their question if they would answer His, but they could not.
 - (1) The question was, **Matthew 21:25 (NKJV) — 25a** The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?”...
 - (a) They refused to answer because **(25b)** And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ **26** But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet.” **27** So they answered Jesus and said, “We do not know.”¹
 - (i) They didn’t answer, so Jesus didn’t either.
 - c) From there He told 2 parables to emphasize His point – that his brethren were rejecting all the Lord’s attempts to get their attention!
2. As we closed the chapter, when the Priests and the Pharisees finally understood that Jesus was talking about them - **(46)** but when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.
 - a) So – it was their desire at that point to see Jesus dead, but they put it off because they feared the crowds, but they will have their heart’s desire.
 - (1) Isn’t it sad that their heart’s desire isn’t the Life that is in Jesus, their hearts desire is to “kill the messenger”?
 - (2) Keeping this in mind – Chapter 22 begins with another parable, still answering the priests’ question about Jesus’ authority, but more specifically to the thoughts running through their heads of wanting to kill Him.

II. **MATTHEW 22:1–2 (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,**

A. Notice the word “again” – this shows us that Jesus is still addressing the same group of Priests and Pharisees.

¹ [*The New King James Version*](#) (1982). Nashville: Thomas Nelson, p. Mt 21:25–27.

1. Remember that the phrase “**The kingdom of heaven**” is not heaven. As we have studied in previous chapters, it is a reference to the time from Jesus official public ministry, until his return. It would include the time in which we now live.
 - a) Notice also that it **may be compared to**: the parable that we are about to study.
2. The King in this parable is God The Father, and the Son is Jesus.

III. **MATTHEW 22:3–6 (NKJV) — 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*.**

A. As you can see, this parable is “similar” to the previous ones in the sense that the lord had been trying to get the message to Israel for a long time that they were invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb – Jesus!

1. **Mark 4:19 (NKJV) — 19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.**
2. Remember the rich young ruler who **Luke 18:22–23 (NKJV) — 22 So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” 23 But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.**
 - a) These men were just “examples” of the hearts of the people.
 - b) Many of the OT prophets were mistreated and killed for saying what the Lord had given them to say. Just like the Priests and the Pharisees wanted to kill Jesus for telling them the truth, as they had killed John the Baptist!
 - (1) So “there is a party goin’ on” and this first group (the Jews), **paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business.**

IV. **MATTHEW 22:7–8 (NKJV) — 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.**

A. At the time Jesus was speaking - this was prophetic – for us it is history.

1. The Roman army, under Titus Vespasian in AD 70 - came upon the very city that rejected Jesus, as the judgment of God, and it was destroyed!
 - a) **The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.**

V. **MATTHEW 22:9–10 (NKJV) — 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.**

- A. So, the invitation goes out and once again and the wedding hall is filled with guests, but it appears that someone hears that there is going to be free food and shows up without being properly dressed!

VI. MATTHEW 22:11–12 (NKJV) — 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.

- A. We see that the invitation went out **to the main highways, and as many as (were found) there, (were) invite to the wedding**. So basically it went to EVERYONE - **both evil and good**.

1. The qualification for being welcome at the wedding feast is the proper “wedding clothes.”
 - a) A man is spotted by the King, (Who we have already determined to be God the Father) – and this man is not dressed properly. When confronted – he has nothing to say - no excuse!
 - (1) So, is there any place in scripture that puts this all into perspective for us? To help us understand the rejection of the Messiah by the Jews (which is symbolized by this man who is not dressed properly for the wedding feast?
 - (a) I believe so. **Romans 3:20–23 (NKJV) — 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**
 - (i) There were all kinds of people there at the wedding feast, but there was at the very least - one man who was not clothed in **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ!**
 - (a) NO ONE - who is not dressed in the grace and righteousness of Jesus is dressed for the marriage feast!

VII. MATTHEW 22:13–14 (NKJV) — 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.”

- A. It is very important to properly understand these two verses!

1. A Calvinist will use these verses as “proof text” that the Lord chooses some people for salvation and rejects the rest.
 - a) That is not correct because John 3:16-17 tells us: **John 3:16–17 (NKJV) — 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the**

world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

- (1) Did you see the “whoever” in there?
- (2) Salvation and Eternal life - the wedding feast - all are invited - but not all will come.

B. This is the final penalty for rejecting Jesus as Messiah and Lord and Savior.

- 1. There are no “back doors” to heaven - it must be through the blood of Jesus!

VIII. CONCLUSION

A. **Matthew 22:15 (NKJV) — 15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in *His* talk.**

- 1. This is nothing new, but it becomes more intense.
 - a) We will see the Herodians, the Sadducees and the Pharisees, each come in turn to try and trap Jesus – that they might have something for which to accuse Him – but they will fail. And in **Chapter 23** we see Jesus’ final break from them all!
 - b) But remember, a man doesn’t have to be guilty of anything to be killed. He only has to be misunderstood or feared!
 - (1) And one more remember: when confronted with the claims of Jesus, we either fall upon the Rock and let Him break our hearts in repentance, or the Rock falls upon us in Judgment!