

OFFERED TO ALL?

Though all are invited to join Jesus in God's kingdom, only those who respond to Him in obedient faith will be accepted.

MATTHEW 22:1-14



TRANSFORMATION
for Adult LifeGroups

FEBRUARY 7, 2018/FEBRUARY 11, 2018

TODAY'S TEXT

Text: MATTHEW 22:1-14 (NIV), Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: 2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. 4 "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' 5 "But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. 6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 8 "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9 So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' 10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and 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 wedding clothes. 12 He asked, 'How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?' The man was speechless. 13 "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 "For many are invited, but few are chosen."

FIRST THOUGHTS

° When have you felt unprepared for a task?

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Jesus went to Jerusalem for Passover. There the Jewish religious leaders confronted Him at the temple about His authority. In response, Jesus shared a series of parables with them (Matt. 21:28–22:14). The last parable He told was about a king who hosted a wedding banquet (22:1-14). The temple leaders continued to confront Jesus. They asked Him a variety of questions, hoping His answers would trap Him. Their hopes were dashed as Jesus gave clear and compelling responses to their questions about taxes, resurrection, and the greatest commandment (22:15-40). Then Jesus questioned them about the Messiah. They couldn't answer without getting themselves into trouble, so they left Him alone (22:41-46).

Jesus continued to preach to the crowds and teach His disciples at the temple. He warned the nation of Israel about God's coming judgment, and He addressed the ungodly practices of the scribes and Pharisees. They imposed heavy religious demands on God's people. At the same time, they enjoyed being exalted because of their self-proclaimed piety. He challenged the religious leaders to understand that the exalted would be humbled and the humble would be exalted (23:1-12). Then He called attention to their extreme hypocrisy by exposing their unethical practices and warning them that God's judgment on them would be harsh (23:13-36). Turning His attention to Jerusalem, He lamented the desolation of the city that would come in due time (23:37-39).

EXPLORE THE TEXT

THE INVITED

> Read Matthew 22:1-7

- ° Jesus told this parable about Israel and her rejection of the Messiah. What modern day event might compare to the event described by Jesus?
- ° What does the destruction of the city represent?
- ° Many in Jesus' day rejected Him, denying He was God's Son and the Messiah. People today still reject Jesus. What excuses do they give for rejecting Him?

THE GATHERED

> Read Matthew 22:8-10

- ° What was the significance of the king's invitation?

- What should we be doing to ensure that everyone, “both evil and good,” hears the king’s invitation?

THE UNPREPARED

> Read Matthew 22:11-14

- What happens to those who are unprepared when Jesus returns?
- How are you preparing yourself for Jesus’ return?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

INVITED, GATHERED, PREPARED

God will hold all people accountable for their response to Jesus.

- God offers salvation to all people, regardless of their past, race, or social station.
- Only those who come to God on His terms, placing their trust in Jesus alone, will escape eternal wrath.

Personal Challenge: Consider your own life and ask, Have I placed my trust in Jesus, declaring that I want to be a part of God’s kingdom? If you have not made that decision, what keeps you from making it today? If you have said yes to God’s invitation and put your trust in Jesus, where and how can you share that good news with someone else this coming week?

UPCOMING LESSONS

- Read Matthew 24:36-51
- Jesus has conquered death, giving us hope. In what ways do you need hope this week?
- Do you know someone who questions Jesus’ resurrection? Invite them to group next week!
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READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

11th - Leviticus 15-17; Acts 18 | **12th** - Leviticus 18-19; Psalm 13; Acts 19 | **13th** - Leviticus 20-22; Acts 20 | **14th**- Leviticus 23-24; Psalm 24; Acts 21 | **15th** - Leviticus 25; Psalm 25-26; Acts 22 | **16th**- Leviticus 26-27; Acts 23 | **17th** - Numbers 1-2; Acts 24