

Matthew 22: 1-14

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready: come to the wedding banquet.’

⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves, sent out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so 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 a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.’”

To ponder . . .

- What's your first reaction when you confront a difficult Biblical passage? Ignore it? Sugarcoat it? Struggle with it? Sit with it? Pray without ceasing? Other?

- Have you ever “made light” of God’s invitation? What excuses do you give for not accepting God’s invitation?

- The passage says that they were sent out “into the main streets” to “invite everyone” to the banquet. Where are the “main streets” in your life from which you’re called to invite people to the party?

- One reason this parable is so difficult for many of us is because it conveys a message of judgement. Why are we so uncomfortable with the notion of God’s judgement – yet can ourselves be so quick to judge?

- If you could ask Jesus one question about this passage, what would it be?

