

The Parable of the Wedding Feast

January 5, 2017

Matthew 22:1-14 NASB

1 Jesus spoke to them AGAIN IN PARABLES, saying,

2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.

Ephesians 5:25-27 NASB

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

Matthew 22:1-14 NASB

3 "And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and **THEY WERE UNWILLING TO COME.**

4 "AGAIN HE SENT OUT OTHER SLAVES SAYING, 'TELL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INVITED, "BEHOLD, I HAVE PREPARED MY DINNER; MY OXEN AND MY FATTENED LIVESTOCK ARE ALL BUTCHERED AND EVERYTHING IS READY; COME TO THE WEDDING FEAST."

5 "BUT THEY PAID NO ATTENTION AND WENT THEIR WAY, ONE TO HIS OWN FARM, ANOTHER TO HIS BUSINESS,

6 AND THE REST SEIZED HIS SLAVES AND MISTREATED THEM AND KILLED THEM.

7 "BUT THE KING WAS ENRAGED, AND HE SENT HIS ARMIES AND DESTROYED THOSE MURDERERS AND SET THEIR CITY ON FIRE.

THE PERIL OF LIVING FOR THE EARTHLY LIFE INSTEAD OF THE HEAVENLY LIFE

Luke 12:29-38 NASB

29 "AND DO NOT SEEK WHAT YOU WILL EAT AND WHAT YOU WILL DRINK, AND DO NOT KEEP WORRYING.

30 "FOR ALL THESE THINGS THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD EAGERLY SEEK; BUT YOUR FATHER KNOWS THAT YOU NEED THESE THINGS.

31 "BUT SEEK HIS KINGDOM, AND THESE THINGS WILL BE ADDED TO YOU.

32 "DO NOT BE AFRAID, LITTLE FLOCK, FOR YOUR FATHER HAS CHOSEN GLADLY TO GIVE YOU THE KINGDOM.

33 "SELL YOUR POSSESSIONS AND GIVE TO CHARITY; MAKE YOURSELVES MONEY BELTS WHICH DO NOT WEAR OUT, AN UNFAILING TREASURE IN HEAVEN, WHERE NO THIEF COMES NEAR NOR MOTH DESTROYS.

34 "FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO.

35 "BE DRESSED IN READINESS, AND KEEP YOUR LAMPS LIT.

36 "BE LIKE MEN WHO ARE WAITING FOR THEIR MASTER WHEN HE RETURNS FROM THE WEDDING FEAST, SO THAT THEY MAY IMMEDIATELY OPEN THE DOOR TO HIM WHEN HE COMES AND KNOCKS.

37 "BLESSED ARE THOSE SLAVES WHOM THE MASTER WILL FIND ON THE ALERT WHEN HE COMES; TRULY I SAY TO YOU, THAT HE WILL GIRD HIMSELF TO SERVE, AND HAVE THEM RECLINE AT THE TABLE, AND WILL COME UP AND WAIT ON THEM.

38 "WHETHER HE COMES IN THE SECOND WATCH, OR EVEN IN THE THIRD, AND FINDS THEM SO, BLESSED ARE THOSE SLAVES.

Colossians 3:1-4 NASB

1 THEREFORE IF YOU HAVE BEEN RAISED UP WITH CHRIST, KEEP SEEKING THE THINGS ABOVE, WHERE CHRIST IS, SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.

2 SET YOUR MIND ON THE THINGS ABOVE, NOT ON THE THINGS THAT ARE ON EARTH.

3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 WHEN CHRIST, WHO IS OUR LIFE, IS REVEALED, THEN YOU ALSO WILL BE REVEALED WITH HIM IN GLORY.

Matthew 22:1-14 NASB

8 "Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.

9 'Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.'

10 "Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests.

11 "BUT WHEN THE KING CAME IN TO LOOK OVER THE DINNER GUESTS, HE SAW A MAN THERE WHO WAS NOT DRESSED IN WEDDING CLOTHES,

12 AND HE SAID TO HIM, 'FRIEND, HOW DID YOU COME IN HERE WITHOUT WEDDING CLOTHES?' AND THE MAN WAS SPEECHLESS.

13 "THEN THE KING SAID TO THE SERVANTS, 'BIND HIM HAND AND FOOT, AND THROW HIM INTO THE OUTER DARKNESS; IN THAT PLACE THERE WILL BE WEeping AND GNASHING OF TEETH.'

14 "FOR MANY ARE CALLED, BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN."

THE PERIL OF NOT PREPARING FOR JESUS' RETURN

1 John 3:2-3 NASB

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. **WE KNOW THAT WHEN HE APPEARS, WE WILL BE LIKE HIM, BECAUSE WE WILL SEE HIM JUST AS HE IS.**

3 AND EVERYONE WHO HAS THIS HOPE FIXED ON HIM PURIFIES HIMSELF, JUST AS HE IS PURE.

2 Peter 3:10-15 NASB

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, **WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE OUGHT YOU TO BE IN HOLY CONDUCT AND GODLINESS,**

12 LOOKING FOR AND HASTENING THE COMING OF THE DAY OF GOD, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

14 THEREFORE, BELOVED, SINCE YOU LOOK FOR THESE THINGS, BE DILIGENT TO BE FOUND BY HIM IN PEACE, SPOTLESS AND BLAMELESS,

15 AND REGARD THE PATIENCE OF OUR LORD AS SALVATION; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

HOW CAN WE BE READY FOR JESUS' RETURN - PURE, SPOTLESS AND HOLY?

1. No Unconfessed Sin

1 John 1:8-9 NASB

8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. **Growing in Obedience**

Hebrews 12:14 NASB

14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.