

Church of God Sunday School

THE WEDDING FEAST

Matthew 21:45-46; 22:1-14

Jesus had just finished telling the parable (story) of the wicked husbandman, a story that shows how the Jewish people rejected the prophets and were now rejecting the Son of God, Jesus. When the chief priests and Pharisees heard this parable, they realized that Jesus was talking about them. They wanted to grab hold of Jesus and do Him harm, but they were afraid of the many people who were listening to Jesus. Although they did not do anything, they were thinking of doing it, and Jesus knew this.

Jesus told another parable in answer to their wicked thoughts. In this story Jesus compared the Kingdom of Heaven to a king whose son was getting married. A wedding is an exciting time, and the king sent forth his servants to invite "them that were bidden to the wedding." But the guests refused to come.

The king sent forth his servants a second time. He told his servants to say that a dinner had been prepared and everything was ready. It was going to be a wedding feast! There would be plenty of good things to eat. Why would they not want

to come? Again, the guests refused the invitation. This time they "made light of it," or ignored it; they considered it unimportant.

Some went their way—one to his farm and another to his business—but those who remained cruelly mistreated the king's servants and killed them. (What wrong had been done to these people that they should so hate the king and his servants? Nothing! They had been invited to the wedding feast of the king's son.)

When the king heard what had happened, he was very, very angry! He sent his armies to destroy those

who had murdered his servants. They also burned up the cities where those murderers lived.

Then the king said to his servants, "The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy." The guests had shown their unworthiness by the way they had treated the king's servants. So, the king decided to send invitations to people in the highways. He said, "As many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage." Now the invitation was to whosoever will.

The servants obeyed the king, gathering together "both bad and good." Thus the wedding was "furnished with guests." The king came in to welcome his guests, but he saw there a man who did not have a wedding garment on. Quite possibly a wedding garment was offered to every guest, as this was the custom at that time. Many of the people who came to this wedding might not have been able to afford a special garment.

The king questioned the man, saying, "Friend, how camest thou in . . . not having a wedding garment?" The man had no answer; he was speechless. Then the

king told his servants to bind the man's hands and feet and to cast him into outer darkness.

Jesus ended this parable by saying, "For many are called, but few are chosen." What did He mean by that? God is the King in this story, and His Son is Jesus. God is inviting everyone to the marriage feast of His Son. The Jews were invited first, but they killed many of the servants (prophets) of the King. Next, God sent out invitations to all who would come.

Many people are answering this invitation to come to the marriage feast and live for God. But God



requires a wedding garment—the "garments of salvation" (Isaiah 61:10). When you are saved, God gives you a wedding garment. Sadly, some people are trying to slip into the feast without it. Will they fool God?

God has sent you an invitation to the great marriage feast. Will you ignore it? Will you get mad at the one who delivered the invitation? Will you try to come

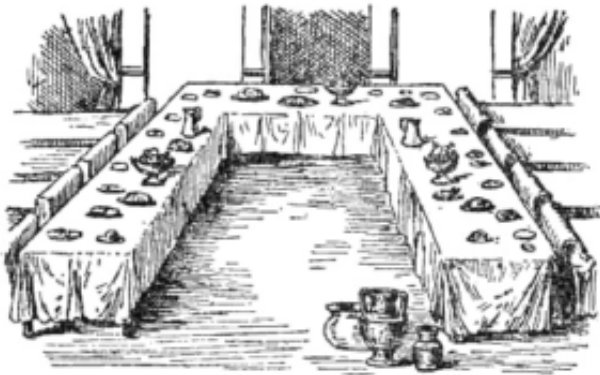
without first putting on the wedding garment? What will you do with this invitation?

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"For many are called, but few are chosen."*

—Matthew 22:14  
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Come to the Wedding Feast



Who was getting married?



Who delivered the invitations?



What did the guests say to the servants?



One man wouldn't come.
Where did he go?



After the people killed the king's servants, he sent his



What did the armies do to the cities?



Where were the servants sent next?



What were the guests to wear?



What was wrong with one of the guests?



Where was the guest thrown?



The Guest Without a Wedding Garment