

Many Are Called

“The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son . . .”
Matthew 22:1-14

I. The PARABLE EXPLAINED

- A. We are told clearly that this passage is a parable, so we seek a lesson rather than details.
- B. The Kingdom of Heaven is the spiritual rule of Jesus Christ including heaven, His local churches, and the gospel administration of worship being preached by John and Christ.
- C. The certain King is God, Who made His Son Jesus Groom of the New Testament church.
- D. The wedding is the gospel-church administration of the new covenant with the Messiah.
- E. The servants are prophets and apostles, who by prophecy and preaching gave invitation.
- F. Those who were bidden are the Jews, who had first knowledge of the gospel invitation.
- G. The dinner of oxen and fatlings are the glorious gospel blessings of the covenant of grace.
- H. The all things are ready is the complete fulfillment of Bible prophecy and Divine timing.
- I. They made light of it is the carnal response of fleshly Jews to the glorious gospel.
- J. The remnant is those wicked Jews who slew the Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles.
- K. The King's armies are the Romans under Titus, who destroyed the Jews in 70 A.D.
- L. The servants are the apostles, prophets, and elders of the New Testament after Pentecost.
- M. The ones found in the highways are the Gentiles by the universal preaching of the gospel.
- N. The guests, both bad and good, are the Gentile converts that filled the churches of Christ.
- O. The King coming in to see the guests is the final judgment before the throne of God.
- P. The wedding garment is the righteousness of Christ, which clothes the true saints of God.
- Q. The speechless condition of the rude wretch is his lack of excuse or defense for his sins.
- R. The servants are angels called by the holy God to separate the wicked and the righteous.
- S. The outer darkness with its attendant miseries is hell, where the wicked spend eternity.

II. The LESSON DEFINED

- A. The first lesson is national rejection of the gospel by the Jews and their total destruction.
 - 1. The gospel was first sent to Israel (Matthew 10:5-6; 15:24; Acts 1:8; Rom 15:8).
 - 2. They had little use for the gospel (Matt 11:16-19; 11:20-24; 12:38-45; 16:2-4).
 - 3. They persecuted and killed the apostles (Ac 5:40; 7:59; 8:1; 12:1-3; 13:50; 14:19).
 - 4. They rejected it, and it was sent to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46-48; Rom 11:11-24).
 - 5. They were destroyed by the Roman armies (Matthew 3:7-12; 21:33-46; 24:1-33).
 - 6. Therefore, great care must be taken to obey the gospel (Rom 11:18-22; He 2:1-4).
- B. The second lesson is unconditional election and its secret affect at the day of judgment.
 - 1. There are many deceived they are Christ's by profession (Mat 7:21-23; II Pe 2:1).
 - 2. The Lord shall separate the good from the bad one day (Mat 13:47-52; Re 20:15).
 - 3. There are false talkers without grace (I Jn 2:4,18-19; I Cor 11:19; Ps 144:11-15).
 - 4. Doers of the law are justified rather than hearers (Ro 2:13; Tit 1:16; Jas 2:14-26).
 - 5. Therefore, great care must be taken for Christ's righteousness (Gal 2:16; Re 19:8).

III. The LESSON APPLIED

- A. How do you hear the gospel? With great joy and repentance? Or with little care or fruit?
 - 1. Jesus warned us to hear carefully with fruit (Lu 8:18; De 32:46-47; Jas 1:21-25).
 - 2. Cornelius and the Bereans were noble (Ac 10:33; 17:11-12; I Thes 1:6-10; 2:13).
- B. Have you made your calling and election sure? Or is your life as barren as a child of hell?
 - 1. Faith is by Christ's righteousness, but we add to it (II Pet 1:1-15; James 2:14-26).
 - 2. No price should be too great to secure our souls (Mark 9:47; 10:23; I Tim 6:6-10).
 - 3. Do you have Paul's great desire to be found in Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:7-21)?