

Lesson Eleven

The Wedding Feast

Scripture Reference: Matthew 22:1-14

Memory Verse: "Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 22:13)

"Steven, will you tell the parable for today?"

"Yes, sir. The kingdom of heaven, or church, is like a certain king who gave a marriage feast for his son. When the time came he sent his servants to call those who were invited. They would not come so he sent others to tell them the oxen and fatlings were killed and ready. But they made light of it and some even killed the servants. The king sent his armies and destroyed them. Then he sent his servants to invite everyone they could find. When they came in there was one guest who did not have on a wedding-garment. The king asked him why and he was speechless. Then the king had him bound and cast into outer darkness."

"Fine, Steven. My, look at all the hands. You must have a lot of questions."

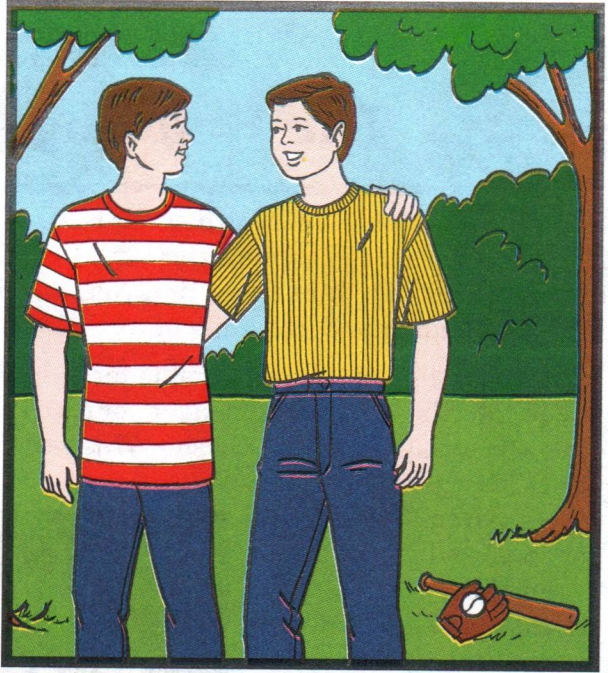
"What does the parable mean?"

"God prepared the kingdom and first asked the Jews to enter. Most refused and even had Jesus killed before the church was built. Then the apostles began to preach to all the world. Many accepted but of those who accepted some did not try to obey God. That is like the one without a wedding garment."



“Why did Jesus say the king sent forth his servant to call them that were bidden?”

“In some countries invitations are sent for important dinners and they are told the day but not the exact time. When all is ready the host sends servants to tell the guests to come. The servants then come with the guests in case of danger from thieves. People who did not kill the apostles or who now do not mistreat preachers or teachers are lost if they neglect the greatest invitation they ever had or ever will



“Why don't you become a Christian?”

have. As to the man without a wedding garment, sometimes a king would supply special robes for guests to wear. For a man to come without one would indicate disrespect. Even if we are not real sure about all that and its meaning, we can know that today if we refuse to heed the call to become a Christian we deserve punishment. Some have suggested the guest with no wedding garment would be one who tries to be a Christian without obeying the command of Christ to be baptized. It may be hard to see this in one who was at the feast but we can see that trying to get in by any other method than the one the Bible teaches or being unwilling to submit our will to His will causes us to be lost.”

“There is nothing so wonderful as the grace of God who invites us to freely partake of His treasures on earth and in Heaven. How terrible to ignore His invitation or try to do things our way instead of His way.”

Questions To Answer

Fill in the blanks.

The kingdom of heaven is the _____ now. In the parable the king sent servants to say, “I have made ready my _____; my _____ and _____ are killed, and all things are _____: come to the _____. They went their ways, one to his _____ another to his _____.”

Some laid hold on his servants, who represent the _____, and treated them shamefully and _____ them.

Underline The Best Answer

1. The marriage feast was for the king's (a) *daughter* (b) *servant* (c) *son*.
2. The king destroyed the murderers and (a) *burned their city* (b) *sold their children* (c) *took their property*.
3. The guests who refused to come were like the (a) *Gentiles* (b) *Jews* (c) *Samaritans*.
4. The king told his servants to bid people to the feast from the (a) *cities* (b) *highways* (c) *houses*.
5. When the king asked the man why he did not have on a wedding garment the man (a) *asked what difference it made* (b) *tried to make excuses* (c) *was speechless*.

True - False

Write "true" if the statement is true and "false" if any part of the statement is false.

- _____ 1. There has been a custom to invite people to a feast and then go tell them when it is ready.
- _____ 2. One can be lost by neglecting our great salvation.
- _____ 3. The only way we deserve punishment is by doing something wrong.
- _____ 4. We can be saved while we are still "self-willed" or doing things our own way.
- _____ 5. The king invited both bad and good to the wedding feast.
- _____ 6. Jesus said few are called and many are chosen.
- _____ 7. The first group invited to the feast made light of it.
- _____ 8. When the kingdom was established, the Jews were preached to first.
- _____ 9. Jesus was killed after the church was established.
- _____ 10. All the Jews rejected Christ and all Gentiles accepted Him.

Questions To Discuss

1. Why is it so bad to reject the invitation to enter the kingdom of God?
2. What are some of the blessings of being in the kingdom or church?
3. Explain the meaning of the man without a wedding garment.
4. What does it mean to submit to God's will?
5. Does it mean a loss of real freedom to submit to authority — especially the authority of God?

Read The Message

Find out in what order the following words will make a good sentence. Draw a line from one box to another in the order of the words of the sentence without crossing any line.

God

Of

Will

Obeying

The

True

Is

Freedom

Found

In

Write the message here.
