

Kingdom of Heaven week 4

Matthew 13:11, 16 (NLT) [Jesus] replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven...blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.

Parable of the Great Feast: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus answers the most basic question about the kingdom of heaven; how am I _____?

Matthew 22:14 (NLT) “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The banquet _____ are different than expected.

_____ of the host didn’t change with the guest list.

Matthew 22:11-12 (NLT) “But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn’t wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?’ But the man had no reply.

Isaiah 61:10 (NLT) I am overwhelmed with joy in the lord my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding or a bride with her jewels.

Lessons from this Parable

We must examine our _____ to God’s invitation.

1. _____ it completely
2. _____ the messengers
3. _____

The kingdom of heaven is not limited to _____ people.

Romans 5:6-8 (NLT) When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

If we come to the feast we are expected to be _____ and participate.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (NLT) If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

Final Thought: We are all _____ to be the bride of Christ and participate in the wedding banquet. What will be your response to the _____?

Kingdom of Heaven week 4 Discussion Questions

What does this parable show you about God's character? Explain. Out of the three reactions to God's invitation in the story, which one do you see the most prevalent today? What do you think is the true motivation behind each response? Explain.

Outline Matthew 21-23. What is significant about this chain of events? Does seeing the banquet parable in the middle of this section change your interpretation of it? Why or why not? Chapter 23 is all red, a 'rant' by Jesus, what about this speech stands out to you and why?

The core of this parable is evangelistic. Read through the "Roman's road of salvation": Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:6-8, 10:9. How does this simple gospel message presentation compare to the message of this parable? Using these verses, practice presenting the way of salvation to your group. Who in your life needs to hear this message? Will you share it with them? Why or why not?

Once you accept the invitation of salvation, we need to put on the wedding clothes. Read these verses that describe leaving the old life behind and putting on a new Christian identity: Isaiah 61:10, Romans 13:12-14, Galatians 3:27, Ephesians 6:11, Colossians 3:12. What action or conversation or step forward do you need to take this week to journey forward in your faith?