

MASTERCLASS #9 Preparing for the Party

Word

Scripture Reference

Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 14:12-24

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever turned down an invitation to a banquet for a very special occasion? What made you do so?

Imagine that millions of invitations to an extravagant party were sent out, but no one showed up. This is exactly what happened to God. Read Matthew 22:1-14. The Parable of the Wedding Banquet teaches us about God's invitation to His kingdom. The invitation for the party was sent out to the Jews first (represented by their leaders), but they rejected it, and so God condemned them. But this parable also provides hope to those who willingly and properly prepare themselves for the celebration that God has planned. We learn four steps in how to prepare for this celebration:

2. **Step #1: Receive the invitation (v. 1-4).** You cannot go to a party unless you are invited. Summarize the preparations that were made in this parable. How did the invitees respond to the king's invitation? What did the king do when they rejected his invitation? God's invitation to His kingdom came in the form of Jesus Christ. By believing in Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are accepting God's party in His kingdom. How do people reject God's invitation? Who were the first recipients of this invitation? When the first invitees rejected the king's invitation, to whom did he extend the invite? Discuss the benefits of God's kingdom that many people tend to reject. What do you look forward to in His kingdom?
3. **Step #2: Check your schedule (v. 5-7).** Once you receive the invitation, you immediately check your schedule to see if you are able to attend the wedding banquet or not. But if this were such a spectacular event prepared by a king, you would most probably try to go around your schedule to accommodate this event. But how did the invited guests react to the king's invitation (v. 5)? Based on this parable, how would

you describe these people who turned down an invitation from the king? What kind of people do you think they were?

4. Read Luke 14:12-24 for a similar parable. Look at the three reasons why people rejected the king's invitation and how similar these reasons are to how Christians today refuse to have fellowship with God, and how the unbelievers give these reasons to reject the kingdom of God.
 - a. *Professional Life (v. 18).* How did this person respond to the invitation? What wrong with this excuse? How does your profession affect your walk with God?
 - b. *Possessional Life (v. 19).* What was the excuse of this invited guest for not accepting the invitation? How do your possessions get in the way in your fellowship with God?
 - c. *Family Life (v. 20).* What was the excuse of the third invitee? How does your family time, events, and responsibilities hold back your time with God?

Discuss how you should deal with these excuses so that you can respect the time you are supposed to spend with God. What is the scary danger of not accepting God's invitation for salvation? Would there be a next opportunity if you miss this one once you are no longer in this world?

5. **Step #3: Know the host's heart (Matthew 22: 8-10; Luke 14:21-24).** The wedding banquet is ready, but the king felt that those he invited did not deserve to come. What instruction did the king give to his servants? How is this invitation the same when God chose to offer salvation even to Gentiles (non-Jews) and to everyone else in the world? Does God discriminate the rejected people of society? How does He compel and welcome everyone to His kingdom regardless of who that person is?
6. **Step #4: Prepare to attend (v. 11-13).** You have received your invitation, cleared your schedule to be there, knew that the host was sincere, and now you prepare to attend the banquet. You want to look nice because it is such an important occasion. What did the king command his servants to do with the man who was not properly attired? How does this scenario give a picture of what will happen to anyone who rejects Christ or attempt to enter His kingdom on his own terms? What should you do in order to prepare yourself to be accepted by God to His kingdom?

Walk

Matthew 22 ended with “For many are invited, but few are chosen” in verse 14. Invitations were given out, but many rejected it. The invitation was first given to the Jews, but they rejected it to the point of killing Jesus. God postponed the kingdom until the second coming and opened the invitation to you now, to all the Gentiles and Jews to believe and yet many are still rejecting His invitation. As you commemorate the Holy Week, think of an area in your life that you have been delaying a response to what God has invited you to do. Is there someone whom you could extend Jesus’ offer of forgiveness and eternal life? What is keeping you from doing so?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, I cannot thank You enough for inviting me to be in Your kingdom. Thank You that I have accepted your invitation and I can be assured that I will be in Your extravagant banquet because I have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior. As I think of Your Son’s death on the cross to save me from my sin, may I also think of others in my life that haven’t accepted Your invitation yet. May You give me the courage to extend Your offer of forgiveness and eternal life to them so that they, too, would have the opportunity to fellowship with You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.