

PARABLES

THERE IS TENSION IN THE STORY

Salvation
What Does It Take to
Go to Heaven?
Parables, Part 8



Message by Tom Mercer
November 12-13, 2016

Matthew 22:1-7

The Kingdom of Heaven is worthy of our attention.

Never trivialize what's important to your King.

Matthew 22:8-10

The Kingdom of Heaven is available to those who are undeserving.

Some who are invited to the Heavenly party may seem surprisingly bad.

Matthew 22:11-14

Don't show up for the party dressed in your own clothes.

The Kingdom of Heaven is available to all who are willing to accept the garments given freely by the King.

Ephesians 4:22-24, Isaiah 64:6, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

The guests chose to accept the invitation and the King chose that they would come.

Romans 8:28-30, Romans 3:22-24

1. Describe the funniest, most memorable, or over the top wedding story you've seen or experienced.

Read Matthew 22:1-3

2. What is unusual about the way the king attempted to gather people for the wedding banquet?
3. Who do these first invitees to the party represent in Jesus' parable? Who would that be in our culture? How would we know one if we saw one?

Read Matthew 22:4-10

4. What were the reasons people refused their invitations? How are these reasons similar to the reasons people today refuse God?
5. What is the shift in strategy for the king? How do these people compare and contrast with the first group?
6. This section ends with the statement that the wedding hall was filled with guests. What point is Jesus making about the kingdom of heaven here?

Read Matthew 22:11-14

7. What do we make of this last scene in the parable? What does it mean?
8. Is the parable of the wedding banquet unsettling or relieving to you? Why?
9. Who is someone in your oikos that you know needs to be invited into a relationship with God? How can you either invite them to meet Jesus, invite them to know you better, or invite them to church this week?