

**Parables of the King and the Kingdom - A Royal Wedding Invitation**  
**Matthew 22:1- 14**

Weddings are a common cultural experience, but the differences among cultures can be vast. In the middle-eastern culture of Jesus' day, a wedding was a week-long event filled with feasts and celebration. The parables that Jesus told concerning weddings were very relatable to the crowds.

**Context:** This parable was spoken during Passion week, probably the Wednesday before the crucifixion on Good Friday. **This parable demonstrates both the judgment of the self-righteous and the amazing grace of God extended to unworthy sinners. Notice the drama played out in this parable.**

- **Scene One: The King's Plenteous \_\_\_\_\_ (1-2; 4)** Jesus often illustrated the kingdom of heaven by the marriage feast.

In this parable, a certain king has a wedding banquet in honor of his son. The king has provided everything needed for a glorious celebration. (4) This is no ordinary meal; this is the king's table! The king has made all the provisions, the guests need only come.

- **Scene Two: The Guests' Rude \_\_\_\_\_ (3-6)** After the preparation is complete, he sends out his servants with a royal invitation to a multitude of guests.

The amazing part of this parable is the response of those invited. What an honor that a king would share an invitation with someone. However, those invited rejected the invitation with both apathy and anger!

**(5) Apathy: Some just went on about their daily affairs. (Lk. 14:17-20)**

**(6) Anger: Some rejected the invitation and attacked the servants!**

Today, people respond to the King's invitation in the same two ways; some just go on about their daily business and others seem to be very angry that they were even invited.

- **Scene Three: The King's Glorious \_\_\_\_\_ (8-10)** The king now sends out his servants to the highways and hedges to invite "all that could be found" to the wedding banquet.

This demonstrates God's grace in sending forth the Gospel invitation to all people, especially the Gentiles.

- **Scene Four: The Lord's Righteous \_\_\_\_\_ (7; 11-13)** This is a parable of judgment! Verse 7 is a prophetic utterance concerning the destruction of Jerusalem. (Matt. 24:1-2)

The last part of the parable demonstrates that only in Christ's righteousness are we appropriately dressed for the marriage banquet. Unless we are clothed in Christ's righteousness, we will be cast out of the wedding celebration into eternal torments. **(Rev. 19:6-9)**

**Application: Have you responded to God's gracious invitation? God's invitation is "Come!"**  
**Are you helping others get ready to meet the Lord? Are you sharing God's gracious invitation?**