

Sermon Outline

NOT ENOUGH TO BE INVITED *Matthew 22:1-14*

Message: Because we are invited by grace, we should participate sincerely on the Lord's terms in His fellowship without presumption nor idolatrous preoccupation.

I. Reconnecting

1. How do you respond to wedding invitations?

II. Review of the Parable of the Wedding Feast

2. The parable of the wedding feast is the third in a series of three judgement parables.
3. Jesus experienced increasing bitter hostility from the hardened Jewish leadership.
4. Although the people followed Jesus in numbers, they too gave in to their blind leaders.
5. The Pharisees knew the parables were clearly directed at them.
6. Jesus began this parable saying that it illustrated the kingdom of heaven.

III. Refusal of the Invited (2-6).

7. The setting of this parable is the wedding feast for the king's son.

A. 1st Reminder (3)

8. Given prior notice of the wedding, the invited guests would had ample opportunity to prepare themselves to attend the wedding feast.
9. To be an invited guest to the king's wedding was an honor and a privilege.
10. But the invited guests refused the call.

B. 2nd Reminder (4)

11. A 2nd invitation at the appropriate hour was given when all things were ready.
12. The king ended the reminder with a cordial welcome to the wedding feast.
13. But still the invited guests defiantly ignored the royal invitation. It was not that they could not come. Rather, they won't.
14. It was an outrageous and blatant disregard for the kingdom of heaven.

C. Presumption and Preoccupation (5-6)

15. Firstly, the Jews' refusal was because they presume themselves the chosen people.

16. Secondly, their cold indifference was because of their preoccupation with their worldly affairs.

17. *“It is not that God turns from us, but that we run from him. Sin tends to isolate the believer” Kelly Kapic*

IV. The Repayment of the King (6-7)

A. The King’s judgment (7)

18. Unrealistic to suppose that the king would engage in a war while the food was getting cold.

19. What is characteristic of a parable is that it is a partial picture of reality.

B. The invited were unworthy (8)

20. They were unworthy because they refused an invitation that was not based on worth.

V. The Replacement of the Invited (8-10)

A. The King invites the good and bad (9)

21. What the high priests considered unacceptable and not God’s people, the king welcomed.

B. They filled the empty seats(10)

22. The street people filled in for the invited guests

C. The Unexpected at the Feast (9-10)

23. The expected are absent and the unexpected are present

24. Unfortunately, many people take their attendance at the banquet in heaven for granted.

25. And covenant children are particularly vulnerable. *Spurgeon said, “Today this same class will be found among the children of godly parents; prayed for by loving piety, listening to the gospel from their childhood, and yet unsaved. We look for these to come to Jesus. We naturally hope that they will feast upon the provisions of grace, and like their parents will rejoice in Christ Jesus; but, alas! how often it is the case they will not come!”*

26. The horror of presumption is that it gradually takes away the kingdom of God from us, without us knowing.

27. *Spurgeon tells of a rich ship owner who was visited by a godly man. The Christian asked, “Well, sir, what is the state of your soul?” to which the merchant replied, “Soul? I have no time to take care of my soul. I have enough to do just taking care of my ships.” But he was not too busy to die, which he did about a week later.*

VI. The Rejection of the man without wedding clothes(11-13)

A. The King's Find (11-12)

28. He found a man not wearing wedding clothes.

29. The man was silent when queried. Not a misunderstanding but chosen not to wear it.

B. The King's Response (13)

30. But the no-nonsense king commanded the man tied up and thrown into the outer darkness.

31. Jesus ends the parable with a reason for rejection "Many are called, but few are chosen".

C. Few are chosen (14)

32. The last part of the parable teaches that we cannot have the kingdom on our own terms.

33. The invitation to God's table is sheer grace, but it is never cheap grace.

34. For the invitation of grace brings with it demands.

35. There will be no one in heaven who got in by mistake.

VII. The Conclusion

36. Judgment is a central and necessary message of Jesus' teaching

37. Jesus warns of judgment to those who hate God and those with 3 habits, viz: presumption, preoccupation and complacent self-righteousness.

38. Jesus wants us to hear in this parable the call of God the Father.

39. By our union in Christ we have power to do what God delights.