

Making Light of God's Wedding

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Matthew 22:1-14

I would like to speak this morning on the subject of, "Making Light of God's Wedding. We have before you the parable of the wedding feast by our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the third of the trilogy of judgment parables upon the nation of Israel for its rejection of their Messiah Jesus Christ. The first one is in Matthew 21:28-32, the parable of the Two Sons, then in the same chapter in verses 33-46 the parable of the Husbandmen and then the one here in Matthew 22 on the wedding feast. In these 3 parables Jesus is painting for us a picture of the rejection of the nation of Israel. The Lord Jesus Christ used many parables to teach us some valuable lessons regarding heaven. The word parable basically means to compare together, by placing side by side one thing with another, that is, a juxtaposition. Like ships line up side by side in battle. The purpose of putting them side by side is to compare them one with another. Jesus is taking an earthly illustration or story in order to give a heavenly meaning. Jesus seeks to communicate a spiritual truth so that the hearers of this parable will be without excuse when they stand before God on judgment day. All of us in this auditorium will give an account to their lives before God one day.

In this particular parable we see Jesus answering the Jews, not in what they said, but what they were thinking, what they wanted to do with Jesus. Jesus had silence them in the prior parable, see Matt.21:43-46 (38 they eventually killed Him). Here in chapter 22 Christ continues with the same train of thought, for the same purpose and again with a parable to present the gospel to them. In this parable we see the mercy, compassion, goodness and condescension of God and in contrast the wickedness and ungratefulness of man. We also see in this parable that a rich and splendid feast is provided. The banqueting room is covered with an abundance of provision. Then you have the most affectionate and gracious messenger is sent to say, "*come for all things are now ready.*" But I want you to notice and mark the responses to this gracious invitation, "*they made light of it,*" and therefore would not come. What a true and profound reaction, which is in reality, seen in most people when confronted with the gospel. They make light of the gospel of Christ, they begin to make excuses as to why they will not come Christ. In other words the parable of the wedding feast is about the gospel of Christ, as it goes forth into all the world, it's about the glorious invitation of God to sinners as they are invited to come to God's Wedding. There will be a future Wedding Feast and only those with proper garments will enter into the feast while others will be cast out. In the book of Revelation, we have that future picture of that glorious wedding feast of God, chapter 19:1-7-14, 17 and let us turn to Matthew 22, you can go and read this later. This parable paints for us a picture of salvation, the Great God of Heaven is having a Wedding in Heaven and He is sending out His Glorious invitation to all, because God intends to fill heaven with the redeemed of the

earth. But the sad thing is that many make light of God's Wedding. In real simple terms, the gospel is God's wedding invitation to you this morning. Will you take His invitation to heart or make excuses. God graciously provides the needed wedding garment for you. You see, there are many who think they can enter heaven on their own terms, their own good works or good deeds, their own religion, their own way, but you can only enter heaven with the proper garments which is provided by the gospel. Look quickly at the person who thought he could enter heaven without the wedding garment, Matthew 22:11-13. No one will sneak in heaven undetected or by their own way.

We must all come to grips with the fact that we will all die some day and will enter into eternity. Your life here on earth will not last forever, but one thing for sure you must make certain that when you reach the end of your earthly journey, that you are clothed with the proper attire of that wedding garment, if not, you will not enter heaven, but be plunge into the pit of awful darkness called hell, that will burn forever, but will not consumed you, as you will be consciously aware of your surroundings. You will not have anyone to blame but yourself. The invitation is for you individually, the invitation is for all, the wedding garment is provided for everyone, but like in the parable, you continue to make excuses for not coming to Christ, who provides everyone whom He saves with the proper wedding garment. You make light of the gospel, but on the other side of the coin, the affairs of the world interests you. When you die there is nothing in this world that can help you and there is nothing in this world that will interest you. When you die, you will die alone; you will not take anything into eternity. Amazing how people give their heart and soul to this world, but in the end it will not help you. But the one thing, yea, the only thing that can get you to heaven, you make light of it., you neglect it, you care not for it. Notice again in Matthew 22:1-5. "*But they made light of it, and went their ways ...*" the phrase 'made light' is the Greek word, '**ameleo**' which means to be careless, to be without care, to neglect completely. I am told that this word in the Greek is an aorist participle which indicates the definiteness of their decision. It is the same Greek word used in Hebrews 2:1-3, "*Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. 2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; 3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.*" The word neglect is the same Greek word as made light in Matthew 22:5. Let us go back to Matthew 22 and notice again the gracious invitation in verse 4, "*...and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.*" God has sent His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to die on the cross for sinners. God has made not only the provision in Christ Jesus, but He also graciously makes the loving invitation, "*Come for all things are now ready.*" Again, the Great God of Heaven is having a Wedding in Heaven and He is sending out His Glorious invitation to all, because God intends to fill heaven with the redeemed of the earth. Turn with to Luke 14:15-27, where we have Luke's parable of this feast, (read). Verse 17 the gracious invitation is made which is followed by the excuses made in verse 18. They again made light of the gospel invitation. Can you imagine that, here we have the

Son of God, Jesus Christ making a cordial invitation, He says, “*Come for all things are now ready.*” But those who heard Him made light of His invitation, they neglected the importance of coming to Him, they were careless, but their decision was definite! This is an accurate description of the reaction of many who hear the gospel, they make light of it and go back to their lifestyles without any concern for their souls whatsoever. They treat the gospel with indifference, they go their own ways and they just walked away from it. Lest we forget, again the invitation to the wedding feast is comparable to the gospel proclamation.

At a marriage feast, like yesterday, everything is provided for the guests, that is, the guests are not expected to bring anything. In the gospel there is a complete provision for the needs of a man’s soul. Everything needed for a sinner to get right with God is found in Christ. Consider this for a moment, in the gospel of Christ God provides:

- Pardon, that is, forgiveness of sins. Not just some sins, but all sins, every single sin committed will be completely forgiven, and people still neglect this, they make light of it. You might not see the need of your sins being forgiven by God at present, but I can assure you the moment you die, you’re going to wish your sins were forgiven.
 1. Micah 7:18 & 19, “*Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. 19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and **thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.***”
 2. Hebrews 8:12, in speaking about the New Covenant the writer of Hebrews said, “*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and **their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.***”
 3. Psalm 103:12, “*As far as the east is from the west, **so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.***”
 4. Isaiah 44:22, “*I have **blotted out**, as a thick cloud, **thy transgressions**, and, as a cloud, **thy sins**: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.”*

Therefore, in the gospel proclamation is forgiveness of sins. God also provides peace with Him.

- Peace with God: Only those in Christ have peace with God,
 1. In John 8:24, Christ says, “*I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*”
 2. In John 3:36 Christ makes this profound statement, “*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*”
 3. Romans 1:18, “*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.*”

4. That which separates us from God is our sins, turn to Isa.59:1-2 & 8 and in Isaiah 57:20 & 21.
5. Isaiah 48:22, *“There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.”* Those outside Christ have no peace with God, but are under His fearful and awful wrath. But in the gospel proclamation there is an invitation to have peace with God.
6. The only way you can peace with God is by the blood of Jesus Christ, look at Colossians 1:20 & 21, *“And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.”*
7. Romans 5:1, *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* Jesus Christ is called the Prince of Peace! The gospel is also called the gospel of peace because the gospel reconciles sinners to God, *“And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach **the gospel of peace**, and bring glad tidings of good things!”* Romans 10:15. The gospel of Christ also provides:
 - Possession of Eternal Life, that is, hope of eternal life:
 1. John 3:16,
 2. Romans 3:23, *“For the wages of sin is death; but **the gift of God is eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*
 3. Titus 1:2, *“In **hope of eternal life**, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.”* Titus 3:7, *“That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according **to the hope of eternal life.**”*
 4. Turn with me to 1 John 5:9-13, there are many who believe that while in this live you cannot know if you have eternal life, but the Word of God makes it very clear, that while on this earth you can know with certainty that you CAN HAVE ETERNAL LIFE! *“If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. 10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. 11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and **this life is in his Son.** 12 **He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.** 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”* The gospel also provides a wedding garment, the proper garment:
 - Proper Garment, A Wedding Garment. By a wedding garment we mean a robe of righteousness. God provides for every sinner a holy garment made

by righteousness of Christ. It is called the garment of salvation, the robe of righteousness.

1. Turn to Isaiah 61:10, "*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.*"
 2. Romans 3:19-26, 4:1-8. The problem with most people is that they try to provide their own righteousness.
 3. Romans 10:3 & 4, "*For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*"
 4. 2 Corinthians 5:21, "*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*" God made Christ to be sin for us and in exchange He gives us the righteousness of God. What I don't understand is how many just plainly neglect and make light of this great provision, our sins exchange for the righteousness of God. The problem is not with God, but with sinners, God is willing to save sinners more than sinners are willing to be saved. They make light of the gospel.
- Promise of a new heart.
 1. Jeremiah 24:7, "*And **I will give them an heart to know me**, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.*"
 2. Ezek. 36:26 & 27, "***A new heart also will I give you**, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*"
 - Precepts, the word of God.
 1. 2 Tim. 3:16 & 17, "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*"
 2. Psalms 119:27 Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.
 3. Psalms 119:173 ¶*Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts.*
 4. By precepts we mean the Word of God, or as the Apostle John says, by precepts, by the word of God we mean THE RECORD GOD HAS GIVEN OF HIS SON, 1 John 5:10 & 11, "*10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. 11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and **this life is in his Son**.*"

Yes, my dear ones in the gospel is the feast of fat things, there is **Pardon** of sin, there is **Peace** with God, there is **Possession** of eternal life and there is given unto us a **Proper** wedding garment, a glorious robe of righteousness, that is, a precious wedding garment, **Promise** of a new heart and **Precepts** of God. All of these are spread before us in rich abundance. Come for all things are now ready, today is the day of salvation, come to God in repentance of sin and come to Christ in faith, trusting Him alone for salvation. This is the whole essence of the parable of the wedding feast it is an invitation to salvation, God has provided everything needed for you to be saved. Will you not come to Christ, or will you make excuses not to be saved and take lightly or if you wish make light of the gospel invitation. Jesus Christ says come to me, come unto me: Matthew 11:28, "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*" Matthew 22:4, "*Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.*" God invites sinners to be reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ. **The banqueting room is covered with an abundance of provision.** PARDON, PEACE, PROMISE and a PROPER Wedding Garment. Everything needed for heaven is provided for by God and He gives you a loving and gracious invitation to the Heavenly Wedding Feast.

Our Lord Jesus Christ reminds us that the wedding invitation, the gospel invitation is free, full and unlimited, there is nothing lacking. Isaiah 55:1-7. The gospel is an open door, an open invitation to all mankind, no one is excluded the invitation is for everyone, whosoever will let him COME! If a person dies and goes to hell it is their own fault, God has provided everything needed to get to heaven. Sad, but true, though everyone is invited, there will only be few that will come. Why? Because many will make excuses not to come, many make light of the gospel, many neglect the importance of the gospel and many would rather be on the broad road to destruction than the narrow road of salvation. This is why Christ told His hearers in John 5:40, "*And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.*" Many shall be without excuse when they die in that they have neglected the gospel by making light of it.

Jesus is teaching us that the gospel of the grace of God is flatly rejected by many who hear it. Many that hear the gospel receive no benefit from it, the gospel profits them nothing. They see no need for God; they feel no need for Jesus Christ, because they are so busy with the affairs of life that they have no time for God. You might not mock or scoff the gospel, you do not outwardly oppose the gospel, you simply love and prefer other things. It's like when Christ was born into this world, there was no room for Him, in Luke 2:12 when Christ was born it says, "*And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*" In other words, there is no room for Christ in your heart. Money, pleasures, preferences, prestige, popularity, your reputation and the things of this world that interest you, but the gospel of Christ has no appeal to you. The sad thing is that many will find themselves in hell not because they lived a gross immoral lifestyle, but

because they neglected the gospel, they had no time for God. Notice the call of Christ to those who would follow Him, Matthew 16:24, *"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."*

Notice the end result of those who made excuses and had no time for Christ, turn to Matthew 22 again. Remember also what Luke's account said in Luke 14:17-20, **"Come; for all things are now ready. 18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. 19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. 20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come."**

In Matthew 22:10-14. Listen to what Charles Spurgeon says regarding the man without the wedding garment, *"This man without the wedding garment is the type of those who pretend to be Christians, but do not honor the Lord Jesus, nor his atoning sacrifice, nor his holy. They are not in accord with the design of the gospel feast, namely, the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in his saints. They came into the church for gain, for honor, for fashion, or for the purpose of undermining the faith of others."* Sad to say, but many who take up mere religion are walking in the broad way that leads to destruction. That is what happens to many people, that take up religion instead of being born again as Christ says we must be. Christianity is about a relationship with God, religion is about ceremonies and rites, do and don'ts. Notice again what it says in verse 10, man's unbelief and excuses will not alter, thwart or hinder the purpose of a sovereign God, *"The wedding was furnished with guests."*

We are clearly told by Christ that on the last day of judgment all false professors will be exposed and eternally condemned, we see this in verses 13 & 14. In this life we might be able to deceive many and even ourselves, have a decent moral life and perhaps even secure a reputation among Christians, but when you stand before God, if you do not have the righteousness of Christ, if you do not have the true wedding garment, He will expose you in your sins and cast you into the awful pit of hell. Oh dear people, if you are not washed in the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and robed in Christ righteousness you will be lost forever. Phil. 2:9-11.

Oh dear people, I caution and warn you on the importance of getting your hearts right with God. Again the problem between God and us is our sins. Sin is what damns people to hell, God has provided the only way to keep sinners out of hell and that is, the giving up of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ who came to die on the cross for hell deserving sinners. I pray that you will take heed to what was shared this morning and that your heart and conscience will be stirred up, I pray that you will come to Jesus Christ, take up His cross, deny yourself and come follow Him. God has extended an invitation to you this morning, Christ Himself, come unto me, therefore, come to God in repentance and come to Christ in faith this morning trusting Him, Him alone, not religion, not any denomination, but solely and only the Person and Word of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Call upon Him this morning as the word of God says: Romans 10:9-13,

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Lets Pray: