

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, August 27, 2023
Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew
Message 102. “Parable of the Wedding Feast” – Matthew 22:1-14
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Introduction: Jesus uses three parables to demonstrate the failure of the religious leaders in Jerusalem to respond to God’s call and the consequences of their failure for Israel. He contrasts those who presume that they have a right to their privileged position and those who instead find themselves unexpectedly promoted – those who the religious leaders particularly despised as being unfit for the kingdom. Today we will study the third parable.

- I. The Invitation to the Great Feast – vs. 1-6
 - A. Preparing for a Wedding – Matt. 9:15
 - 1. The initial feast in a week of celebration
 - 2. The Son and Servants of the King
 - B. Invited, but Not Willing (vs. 3)
 - 1. OT Prophets calling Israel
 - 2. Not willing – “took no notice” – not interested, don’t care
 - C. Invited, but Preoccupied (vs. 4)
 - 1. More OT Prophets
 - 2. Made light of it and went their way – Luke 9:57-62
 - D. Invited, but Murderous (vs. 6)
 - 1. Open rejection of the rule of the King
 - 2. Rebellion, persecution, and murder
- II. The Dis-Invited – vs. 7
 - A. The King’s Wrath
 - 1. Like Assyria and Babylon taking Israel and Judah captive
 - 2. The wall and the Temple destroyed
 - B. Destruction – Jerusalem 70 AD
 - 1. The people killed or carried off
 - 2. The wall and Temple destroyed – burned down
- III. A Universal Invitation – vs. 8-10
 - A. More Servants Sent “Outside”
 - 1. NT Apostles, Pastor-Teachers and Evangelists – Eph. 4:11
 - 2. To the Nations – 2 Tim. 1:11
 - 3. To call together a new nation
 - B. “As Many as You Find, Invite” – Rom. 9:3-5, 6-9; John 6:63-65
 - 1. People of no special standing
 - 2. Israel had and lost their “natural” advantage
 - 3. The flesh profits nothing – it is always ALL GRACE
 - 4. Good and Bad – the messy life of being the church
- IV. Right Place, Wrong Clothes – vs. 11-13
 - A. Wedding Garments
 - 1. Friend – a polite way to say, “I don’t know you”
 - 2. Where are your wedding clothes?
 - a. The righteousness of faith – Rom. 3:21-23
 - b. Fruit of the Spirit – Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:9-11 (see Eph. 4:25-32; Col. 3:12-17)

- B. Tares among the Wheat (not all in are in) – Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 6:46; Matt. 25:10-11
- C. Make Your Calling and Election Sure
 - 1. Faith without works is dead – James 2:19-20, 26
 - 2. Enthusiastic faith is not enough – Matt. 13:20-22
 - 3. Workers of Iniquity – Luke 13:27
- V. Invited vs. Chosen – vs. 14
 - A. A Universal Invitation – all are called (invited)
 - B. A Limited Election – few are the chosen
 - C. A Warning – false christs are everywhere – Matt. 24:23-26
 - 1. Faith Comes by Hearing not by Seeing
 - a. Hearing the Word – Rom. 10:17
 - b. Blessed for believing without seeing – 1 Peter 1:8-9; John 20:29
 - 2. The living face of Jesus
 - a. God's Word is active and alive – Heb. 4:12
 - b. Jesus is active and alive – Heb. 7:25
 - 3. We shall behold Him! – 1 John 3:2; Rev. 1:7

Cross References

Luke 9:57-62

57 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." 59 Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." 61 And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." 62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Ephesians 4:11

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

2 Timothy 1:11

11 to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Romans 9:3-5

3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, 4 who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; 5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

Romans 9:6-9

6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, 7 nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." 8 That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. 9 For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son."

John 6:63-65

63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. 65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."

Romans 3:21-23

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Ephesians 4:22-24

22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:9-11

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Matthew 7:21-23

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

Luke 6:46

46 “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

Matthew 25:10-11

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’

James 2:19-20

19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

James 2:26

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Matthew 13:20-22

20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. 22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

Luke 13:27

27 But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’

Matthew 24:23-26

23 “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand. 26 “Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it.

Romans 10:17

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1 Peter 1:8-9

8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

John 20:29

29 Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Hebrews 4:12

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 7:25

25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

1 John 3:2

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Revelation 1:7

7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.