



Session # 5:
Parable of the Wedding Banquet (Mt. 22:1-14)
Tuesday, November 19, 2019

22 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

⁵“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

¹³“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹⁴“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

Small Group Discussion Questions

Discuss the idea of emotional bidding more fully, both personally and spiritually.

1. First, share what you notice about the dynamic of emotional bidding in your most important human relationship. Tell about a recent time when you see it happening.
 - a. Sometimes relationships have run dry for so long, that emotional bidding has stopped entirely, or is very hard to recognize. If this is you, confess this to your small group, and choose someone in your group to talk to more fully about it later.
 - b. Sometimes we bid for attention, and sometimes we are the 'bid-ee'. Which is more common for you?
2. This parable is also filled with a first century version of 'emotional bidding' between a King and his subjects as a spiritual lesson.

- a. What does emotional bidding look like on a spiritual level with God? What are the various things that God has done, or is doing, that call for a response?
- b. On a 1—4 scale what is your most common response to God's invitations?
1 = total indifference 4 = deep engagement

Why are you like that?

3. Recount the kind of reactions to the King's invitation that we see in this parable.
 - a. What are they, and what are 21st century equivalents?
 - b. Discuss your own location in the story. Where are you?
 - c. For all but one kind of invitee, the consequences appear harsh, what do you make of that?
4. One reaction may be especially and stereotypically relevant to us... re-read verse 4. As one commentator put it, these are good and godly occupations – until they become *preoccupations*.

What, if anything is causing preoccupation in your life? What are missing because of it?