

20th Sunday after Pentecost, 19th Sunday after Trinity – 2023

Saturday, 10/14 at 4:00 | Sunday, 10/15 at 9:00



Text: Matthew 22:1-14 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends: The One True God ☞wants us to be with Him and ☞has made the way for us to get there, *but many – in the end – will be thrown out!* What about you?

As Jesus tells us *an important parable today*, may the Holy Spirit enable us to ➡see the TRUTH, ➡REPENT of our sins, and ➡TRUST in Jesus alone as our ticket into the ultimate wedding feast!

1. **Many Are Unwilling to Come:** Here, the ones who had been invited to *the ultimate wedding feast* are called to come: ¹ **Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying,** ² **“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. ³ And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come.”**

- a. Who's who?
 - i. **The king** is God the Father.
 - ii. **The Son** is Jesus.
 - iii. **The wedding feast** is *the great celebration for believers* at the end of the world.
 - iv. **The slaves** are the prophets.
 - v. **The ones unwilling to come** are primarily the descendants of Jacob/Israel.
- b. The situation: God ✦ chose them, ✦ grew them into millions of people, ✦ rescued them from slavery, and ✦ gave them the Promised Land – *which pointed to heaven*. **God wanted them to trust in Him and the Coming Messiah.** But, instead, they repeatedly turned to false gods 😊. So, the LORD caused them to experience defeat and exile **to radically invite them to repent and return, but they were unwilling!**
- c. Today: Many in the world and here at BLC are being invited to ✦ read the Bible, ✦ get to know Jesus, and ✦ honor Him in their lives, *but many are unwilling* 😊. Why? They THINK they ✦ are doing okay, ✦ are good enough, and ✦ will be welcomed in when Jesus returns!

2. **Many Are Too Busy to Come:**

- a. Here, the call to come to the ultimate wedding feast is of **greater urgency** – the meat has been prepared and must be eaten: ⁴ **“Again [the king] sent out other slaves [prophets] saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited, “Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered [killed for food] and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast.”’** // They had no refrigeration; the food – in a sense – was on the table, *so COME NOW was the plea!*

- b. ⁵ **“But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, ⁶ and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them.”** // Since the people were *so undeserving*, the invitation was **so amazing!** Even today, the LORD is calling all people to ✦read their Bibles, ✦receive His gifts each week, ✦support the work of His kingdom, and ✦live for Jesus. However, both in the parable and today, *many people are valuing the things of this life OVER Jesus and God’s gift of righteousness* 😊.
- c. The king’s response was sharp and final: ⁷ **“But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire.”** // Those words of Jesus pointed to an event that occurred 40 years later in A.D. 70 – *when Jerusalem was destroyed and many in the city were either put to death or enslaved!* That horrible event was a preliminary judgment, *which points to the final judgment!*
3. **Many Are Unworthy to Come:** ⁸ **“Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find *there*, invite to the wedding feast.’”** // Initially the descendants of Jacob/Israel were invited; now, everyone else – that is, the Gentiles – are also invited.
- a. Entering the wedding hall: ¹⁰ **“Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good [*unrepentant and repentant*]; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests.”** // Long ago, when a king invited people to a grand feast, **he freely provided them with the appropriate clothes.**

Therefore, these guests would have been offered the proper clothing.

- b. ¹¹ “But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?’ And the man was ~~speechless~~ [muzzled, silenced].” // It’s not that he had nothing to say, *BUT HE WAS NOT PERMITTED TO SPEAK!* Since the clothes were freely offered, ***there is NO EXCUSE for being without the wedding clothes.*** And what are those clothes? **The righteousness of Christ**, which was put upon us when we were baptized (Gal. 3:27). It is VITAL to CONTINUE IN CHRIST, ***to keep the wedding clothes on!***
- c. ¹³ “Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’” // Those who – *for any reason* – reject Jesus ***condemn themselves*** to a horrible eternity!
- d. Then Jesus summarized the parable: ¹⁴ “**For many are called** [invited], **but few are chosen** [elected].” // *God is powerfully inviting everyone to repent and believe!* But God knows that ***only a few*** will respond with ☹sorrow for sin and 😊trust in Jesus to the end. **May we always be numbered among the few!**

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, You invited us and freely offered us the necessary wedding clothes. Now, help us to treasure Jesus, live for Him, and urgently invite others to do the same!

Website: www.BLC7500.com; **YouTube and Podcast:** “Benefit from the Bible”
Facebook: “Bethlehem Parma” / **Pastor:** RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 / 440-845-2230