

about election, which is a matter of God's sovereign secret decree, and go on always debating that point and not coming to Jesus to be your only Saviour and Lord, you are making light of God's Word, including Matthew 22:14. The point of that last verse is that now you make sure to learn what this parable is saying, and don't make light of the only gospel message and invitation and way; don't make light of it a second longer but come to Jesus and trust and obey Him while He still calls sinner and leads His people in the way they should go.

The parable brings out so clearly with the Saviour there is room for sinners of all kinds. There is to be no restriction of the gospel offer to anyone, be they good or bad according to human standards....let all come, for all need Jesus to be saved, and without Jesus as your Saviour and Lord there is no salvation for anyone. In the end the wedding hall will be filled with guests from all over the world, an innumerable multitude of all types of sinners, all saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. This is the gospel call and invitation to all and it is still being sounded by God's servant in His Name to all people. As the hymn writer put it:

Come to the Saviour now! He offers all to thee,  
And in His merits you have an unfailing plea.  
No vain excuses frame, for feelings do no stay;  
None who to Jesus came, were ever sent away.

Come to the Saviour, all, whate'er your burdens be;  
Hear now His loving call, Cast all your care on Me.  
Come, and for every grief, In Jesus you will find,  
A sure and safe relief, a loving Friend and kind.

Dear friends, the way to go forward and onward rejoicing is not making light of God's Word and will, but taking it to heart today in all its message to us, and asking Christ Jesus to be your Saviour and Lord in every way, all the way, always. May none of you make light of the only gospel for sinners here on earth, the gospel of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

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**BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST**

*Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America*

*Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)*



#### MAKING LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL [2]

This is the second message on Jesus' so called parable of the wedding feast as found in Matthew 22:1-14.

*"The kingdom of heaven [said Jesus], is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. 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. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen."*

Last time we ended with what the sad commentary was from Jesus about so many, *"but they made light of it [the gospel invitation and command] and went their ways."* Jesus' sad commentary about so many people in His day, even covenant people, was that they made light of the gospel of Jesus Christ and they wouldn't hear nor follow the gospel way, always having something else on their mind and heart calling for their attention. Are you making light of the gospel message and invitation, and the only Saviour from sin and death and hell for us? When will you stop making light of it, when it is forever too late?

Going on now, we learn that this last question I raised is urgent. For in the parable Jesus doesn't only make a sad commentary of many people in our text, but He gives a solemn condemnation against all who make light of and actively oppose also His gospel message and way. The parable makes

clear while the King, by Whom is meant God, has great patience and compassion and care when He is repeatedly and increasingly resisted and rejected, then there will come righteous and terrible judgment from Him. *“But when the king heard thereof, [how those invited resisted and rejected the invitation and mistreated those who brought it]...he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city”*[vs.7-8]. This was a prophecy of the coming destruction also of Jerusalem and the Jewish nation by the Romans in 70 A.D. where more than a million Jews were slaughtered and the temple in Jerusalem and that special city were demolished!

What Jesus brings out very clearly here is that making light of the gospel message and invitation and so going on will bring you into eternal condemnation and judgment. Jesus teaches also the same in the last part of the parable with that one man in the wedding feast not wearing a wedding garment. That man without the wedding garment wasn't truly in the way of the gospel nor would he follow and obey that way. That person, too, was making light of the gospel way and meets with certain and eternal punishment! This man wasn't spotted and detected by others to be a hypocrite and deceiver, but the King knows who are, and the parable tells how He right away detected this man as not a true believer and follower of Jesus Christ. This man in the wedding hall represents those especially who, while they want to go to heaven and belong to a church, also to be accepted, yet they won't walk in God's ways but do their own thing. That man, and how many church goers like him, would not wear the wedding garment of Christ's righteousness, that wedding garment of faith and obedience in doctrine and in life; he saw no need for that even. We can know just as that man was speechless before the king's question, *“Friend, how did you come in here not having a wedding garment,”* this person simply would not follow God's gospel way and God's holy Word. He thought to live as he pleased, but it doesn't work that way in the Christian faith and gospel. The man obviously made light of Jesus and all His gospel Word and we are told he was bound and taken away and cast into outer darkness where, says Jesus, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Are you making light of God's Word and gospel way in any way at all? Maybe you don't make light of the fact that you need Jesus to be saved and being saved alone by grace through faith in Him, but do you make light of living by God's Word and wholly following after Jesus in everything for His praise, in spirit and truth? Are you compromising with sin and worldliness in any way, tolerating evil somehow and making light of your pricking conscience and the call to repentance and holiness? If you can live with making light of God's Word and will in any way, that is not a sign of being truly saved, but an indication of being not yet saved, and headed for eternal destruction, except you repent and believe. Please listen carefully. The

parable of Matthew 22 speaks loud and clear of Jesus' solemn condemnation on any and all who will make light of His gospel call and way in any way at all! Will you now take this to heart or will you not pay attention to it and go on your way, making light of this too? How many merrily go on their way making light of the gospel, and the days and weeks and years go by, and before they know it, the end comes and then it is forever too late! Will you this day be pricked in your heart and seek the Lord while He may be found, and call upon Him while He is near?

Here let us just think a moment what explains often people continuing on taking lightly and not paying attention really to the gospel call and way. Is it not that often people will not stop to consider really the wickedness of their sins and sinfulness? Is it not too that often people will not stop to consider the brevity of life and certainty and magnitude of the eternity hereafter? Is it not also that people are often ensnared by Satan and this world and the lusts of their flesh? Is it not most of all, however, people don't stop to think about the gift of God for us with Jesus Christ and the once for all sacrifice for sin He made in the place of sinners like us? All who despise Jesus and Him crucified and make light of Him, that inexpressible gift of God for sinners like us, are deserving only and always of endless and eternal judgment in hell. Do you confess all these points are so true and does it make you also cry out to God, *“O Lord, be merciful to me, and don't let me make light of the gospel message and invitation and way, but work in me that I take it to heart and live accordingly, genuinely so and steadfastly so for as long as I live, and that I call others to do the same.”* Is that how you respond also to this message?

That question brings me to our third main point now where we notice Jesus' salvation call. Jesus gives also this parable to urge His audience in the gospel way. This comes out especially at the very end of this parable when Jesus says in applying the whole parable, *“For many are called but few are chosen.”* This statement should not be taken to mean, *“Well, some are lucky, and some are not; some get picked and some don't. What can you do about it?”* No, but with this last statement if you take it in the light of the whole parable, it is Jesus teaching, *“Don't now you take the gospel message, also not this parable lightly, but be sure to come to Me and hear My voice and follow Me!”* This last verse of our passage is Jesus applying the parable and saying, as it were, *“Many will go on making light of all that I say and teach, but some won't, no, they will pray God to be truly saved and sanctified and ever walking in My ways.”* The truth is by nature all of us make light of God's Word and will and way, but when our eyes are opened and our hearts renewed, you can't go on in the way of sin and unbelief, not a step further even, and you cry out for mercy and God's saving power for a sinful, depraved wretch like yourself. Is this how you respond now to this message? If you let the last verse take you down *“a rabbit trail”*