

The Kingdom of God is like a joyous wedding banquet where the expected guests refuse to come so God graciously invites in unexpected guests. Have you accepted the invitation? Are you dressed for the feast?

I. The Setting of the Parable

- A. Jesus' Audience: The Chief Priests and the Elders (21:23)
- B. The Parable of the Two Sons (21:28-32)
- C. The Parable of the Wicket Tenants (21:33-46; Isaiah 5:1-7)

II. Interpretation of Parable in the Original Context

- A. The Wedding Banquet (22:1-2; 8:11; Isaiah 25; Rev 19:7-9)
- B. The Original Invitation, Rejection, and Judgment (22:3-7; 21:33-41)
- C. A Broader Invitation (22:8-10; 21:41, 43; 13:47-50)
- D. The King's Judgment and the Missing Wedding Garment (22:11-14; 8:11-12; Zech 3:3-4; Isaiah 61:10; Rev 19:8)

III. Application of the Parable to Us

- A. "All is ready." You are invited to God's banquet.
- B. Have You Accepted the Invitation?
- C. Are You Clothed for the Wedding Banquet? (Isaiah 61:10; Eph 4:22-24)

"The witness of the church should be characterized by the joy of inviting people to the banquet God has prepared, a banquet that is both present and future."—Klyne Snodgrass

"It is good for those that have a place in the church, often to put it to themselves, 'How came I in hither? Have I a wedding-garment?' If we would thus *judge ourselves, we should not be judged.*" —Matthew Henry

Reflection and Application Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. What does it mean to enjoy the wedding feast of God?
2. Are you clothed for the wedding banquet? Are you feasting at the Lord's table?
3. What is the difference between those who refuse the invitation and the one who accepts it but doesn't have the proper wedding clothes?
4. How can you as God's servant be inviting others into the feast?