



## Sermon Questions: *The Wedding Feast*

Date: *September 19, 2021* | Scripture: *Matthew 22:1-14*

1. Look back at 21:23 and 21:45-46, and ahead to 22:15. How would you describe the context in which Jesus told this parable?
2. What Matthew calls the Kingdom of Heaven, the other Gospel writers call the Kingdom of God.<sup>1</sup> *Read the excerpt in the box.* What is this kingdom that Jesus is comparing to a wedding feast?
3. Much as the response in 22:6 is clearly evil, the response in 22:5 might seem quite reasonable to us, as busy people. What reasons might Jesus have for including it?
4. For whom are verses 8-10 good news? Consider the parable, the initial hearers, and the present day.
5. Verses 11-13 are difficult. How does the gospel language of clothing us with Christ's righteousness (Eph. 4:24, 6:11-18, Col. 3:12-17, Rev. 3:18) affect how we read these verses?

"When Jesus came as the Messiah, he established God's kingdom in the new covenant through his death and resurrection, and now reigns from heaven. One day he will return to consummate the blessings of the kingdom, at which time he will set up the new Eden of God's kingdom in the new heavens and new earth. In the meantime, we live in the already and not yet of the kingdom, serving our King and looking for his return."

*Excerpt from an essay by Christopher Morgan, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-kingdom-of-god/>*

### WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

*Reflect* on these Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25
- Esther 6:1-7:6
- Proverbs 9
- Acts 14:44-52
- 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
- Revelation 9:6-10

Listen to the Spotify playlist, [The Storytelling Savior: Parables in the Gospel of Matthew](#)

*Reach out* if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at [deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org](mailto:deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org)

You can also find additional resources on our website: [capitalpres.org](http://capitalpres.org)

### *Inward Grace in Action*

*The questions below are a little more intimate and are meant to be discussed with a trusted friend or partner.*

1. In the sermon, we were reminded that Jesus steps on everyone's toes. The contrast in this parable is stark: feast, or weeping and gnashing of teeth. Do you struggle more with God's inclusion of bad people, or with his exclusion of those who reject him? How does your experience of life interact with this difficulty?
2. Remember the context of this parable, before and after. How might the inclusion of this story (of the telling of this parable) expand your understanding of who Jesus is?

<sup>1</sup> It is likely that Matthew, writing initially for observant Jews, was respecting Jewish tradition by avoiding use of the name of God out of reverence for the third commandment. The term 'the Kingdom of Heaven' would be understood as the same thing as 'the Kingdom of God.' Even today, many Jewish traditions write 'G-d' or use an alternate name or term.