

A Celebration of the Son

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

- A. Christmas is a time to celebrate the Son.
- B. Text: Matthew 22.
- C. Matthew 22 teaches us about the sphere of God's rule by salvation.

II. Many are invited to the king's celebration, but they turned the king down. They disdain the invitation of the king in their indifference. It is a shocking story. They even kill the servants of the king in their hostility.

- A. God is the king.
- B. Jesus is the son.
- C. The Jews were the pre-invited guests.
- D. The feast was salvation.
- E. The prophets were those servants that were killed.

III. The parable is a wholesale indictment of the Phariseeism that rejected Christ, which is also reflected in the attitude of many towards Christmas today.

IV. The king is angry and burns the city of those who rejected him. This is a picture of eternal doom.

V. The king extends the invitation to all, which is a picture of God inviting the Gentiles in. God seeks out any who will come.

VI. Everyone is either indifferent, hostile or open to the celebration of the Son.

- A. Those who celebrate with their own righteousness will be thrown out. (Isaiah 69:10)
- B. Those who are clothed in the righteousness of God are kept. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- C. We must be clothed with the righteousness of Christ by faith.

Application Questions:

1. How can the attitudes of the hostile and indifferent often be seen during the Christmas season?

2. Why is a celebratory attitude toward Christ insufficient in and of itself?

3. What does it mean to be clothed with Christ's righteousness? How can one obtain this? Explain.
