

Responding to a Royal Invitation

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 22:1-14.
- B. Jesus gives four parables of judgment after he was rejected.

II. Rejection.

- A. Jesus talked about the kingdom of heaven--the dominion of God's redemption. This is a spiritual kingdom.
- B. The wedding feast of a king's son would have been a great feast. This would have been the greatest celebration of a culture. This is what the kingdom of heaven is like.
- C. People rejected the offer to come to the wedding feast in Jesus' parable. They made light of a very serious invitation.
- D. God is calling people to the kingdom of his Son.
- E. The kingdom was offered to Israel, but the response was indifference and hostility. (Hosea 11, Amos 3, Ezekiel 16, Revelation 17)

III. Punishment.

- A. God responds with justice to those who act unjustly.
- B. Worthiness is not dependent upon moral virtue--it is dependent upon accepting the invitation.
- C. Israel was cast off because they cast off Jesus. This was fulfilled in 70 AD.

IV. New guests.

- A. The mandate is to go and preach the gospel to all nations.
- B. The fall of Israel became the rising of the Gentiles. (Romans 11, 1 Corinthians 6)

V. The intruder expelled.

- A. There will be people who try to crash the kingdom. They will ultimately be put out.
- B. These are tares among the wheat. They have no God-given righteousness. (Matthew 5:20, Hebrews 14:12, Job 29:14)
- C. The only way a person is ever marked out by the kingdom is God's manifest righteousness. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- D. One is clothed with God's righteousness by faith in Christ's death and resurrection.
- E. The call is sent out everywhere. Many are called, but few are saved.

Application Questions:

1. How would you explain the kingdom of heaven?

2. How would you respond to someone who says that God is unfair for punishing some and not others?

3. Who are the "kingdom crashers?"
