

“AN INVITATION TO JOY”

Matthew 22:1-14

I. THE SPECIFIC INVITATION TO THE JEW FIRST.

- A. The blessings of the gospel are presented as parabolic of a marriage feast.
 - 1. Heaven must be in a man before a man can be in heaven.
 - 2. The feast is royal. It is made by the King of the heavens. The kingdom of the heavens is the subject of the parable. The banquet of the King of heaven is a joy to the great universe.
 - 3. It is the marriage feast for the King's Son. Christ is the Bridegroom. The Church is the bride. The season of the banquet is the gospel commencing upon this earth but ending in the heavens.

- B. Prophets and apostles are the King's messengers.
 - 1. They are called his "bondservants."
 - 2. They came to those who were bidden. The Jews were called first through the gospel.
 - 3. The old prophets made the gospel to emanate from Jerusalem (see Isa. 2:3; Joel 2:28-32).
 - 4. They came to the bidden with entreaty.

- C. But the favored proved themselves unworthy.
 - 1. For they "made light" of the invitation.
 - 2. They went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his merchandise.
 - 3. "And the rest laid hold on his servants, and entreated them shamefully, and killed them."
 - 4. They were unworthy.

- D. They are punished accordingly.
 - 1. The murderers were destroyed.
 - 2. Their city was burned.

II. THE GENERAL INVITATION TO THE WHOLE WORLD.

- A. The messengers are the same.
 - 1. The prophets anticipated the calling of the Gentiles (Acts 2:17; Joel 2:28-32).
 - 2. The apostles, accordingly, when the Jews refused the gospel took it to the Gentiles.

- B. They had better success.
 - 1. All sorts were invited and all sorts came to the banquet feast. Hypocrites and unbelievers are among the genuine saints.
 - a. In the field are the good and the bad wheat.
 - b. On the threshing floor are the good and bad wheat.
 - c. In the fishing net are the good and bad fish.
 - d. In the house are the wise and foolish.
 - e. In the sheep fold are the sheep and the goats.

- C. A royal inspection will determine the true believers.
 - 1. The King will behold the guests. This survey will take place at the last judgment. God takes particular notice of those who profess his religion.
 - 2. He will see who has not on the festal garment. (Gal. 3:27)

3. He will search the reasons: "Friend, who let you in? Why are you willing to receive the King's bounty, but will not comply with the King's conditions? Garments are provided. Not to wear one is a mark of contempt towards the King. The filthy rags of self-righteousness cannot be tolerated in heaven.
 4. The most presumptuous will be speechless in the presence of the King.
- D. The fearful will be the punishment of the wicked.
1. "Bind him hand and foot."
 2. "Cast him out into the outer darkness."
 3. "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Useless regrets; remorse; despair.
 4. "Many are called, but few chosen." Many hear; few believe.

You are among the called: Are you also among the few chosen?