The Parable of the Wedding Banquet
Matthew 22:1-14

MAIN THOUGHT This is the story of Israel’s detailed rejection of Jesus and his acceptance by others – the nations of the world to form his church.

THE KING AND HIS SON (1-2).

• A KING (undoubtedly God the Father) prepared a wedding banquet (inauguration as king) for his SON (undoubtedly God the Son – Jesus Christ – Psa. 72:1). It is as if the people were married to their king – “Long live the king” (1 Kings 1:25, 34).
• This was like the feast for SOLOMON (see ADONIJA – 1 Kings 1:5, 9) when all pledged their allegiance to him (1 Chron. 29:21-24).

THE SERVANTS (3).

• It could be assumed that the “save the date” invitations had been sent at the time of engagement (12 months earlier was the custom).
• Throughout the OT the prophets had described in great detail the MENU of the coming kingdom of Messiah’s reign but they still REFUSED (Matt. 23:37).

THE OTHER SERVANTS (4).

• Now servants were sent with a second announcement that the banquet was now ready (2 Cor. 6:2). This was John the Baptist’s (Matt. 3:1-2) and the apostle’s (10:5-7) message – REPENT, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS NEAR.
• COME is the constant theme (Isa. 1:18; 55:1; Matt. 4:19; 11:28; Rev. 22:17).

THE PREVIOUSLY INVITED (5-7).

• How shocking it was that they now REFUSED even though the nation of Israel was expecting their messiah to reign over them (Psa. 110:1-2).
• They paid no attention and made excuses revealing their obsession with materialism, wealth, and standing (Matt. 6:24).
• Alas, even after they killed Jesus they killed later servants like STEPHEN (Acts 7:51) and JAMES (Acts 12:1-3) who graciously offered the gospel to Israel – first for the Jew, then for the Gentile (Rom. 1:16).
• They imprisoned Peter and John (Acts 4:3) and Paul and Silas (Acts 16:22-24).
• At this the king sent his army to destroy them and their city – Jerusalem in AD 70 by Titus and the ninth legion of Rome.

THE NEWLY INVITED (8-10).

• Because Israel refused, others (whosoever will may come KJV – Rev. 22:17) were invited (the CHURCH – the gentiles nations – 1 Pet. 2:9).
• ALL, good or bad, were invited (14; 1 Cor. 1:26-30a) but not all came (14).

THE WEDDING CRASHERS (11-13).

• The king caught someone not properly dressed for true saints are given fine (white – Rev. 19:14) linen (Rev. 19:7-8).
• He was disobedient (Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 6:46) and was thrown out (Rev. 20:15).

THE TRUTH (14). Many are CALLED (general call; invitation to all) but few are CHOSEN (efficacious [effect] call) – “before the creation of the world” (Eph. 1:4).