

Sunday, October 11, 2020

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 22:1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

¹ Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying:
² “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴ “Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

⁵ “But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶ The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸ “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹ So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹² He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

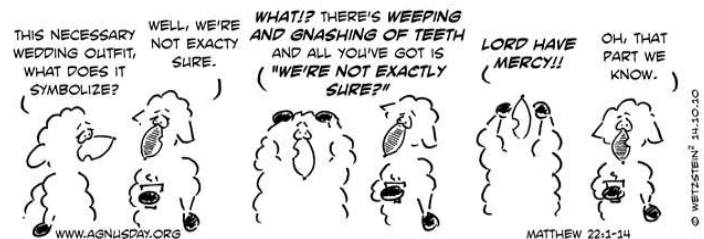
¹³ “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹⁴ “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”



QUESTIONS

1. The similar gospel account for this passage (Luke 14:15-22) is less “parallel” than other gospel parallels. What do these two passages share in common?
2. Do some background reading. Was it common to alert invited guests that it was time to come?
3. What are the clues that this is a large wedding?
4. What is “The Wedding Feast of the Lamb”? Does the parable inform our understanding of it, or is it a “stand-alone”?
5. What is a point of connection with last week’s text?
6. Who is invited?
7. Name other parable(s) that have a “second act”?
8. What do the wedding clothes represent?
9. What do the descriptors suggest about “hell”?
10. Does the closing summary ring true to the parable? Can you think of other time(s) that Jesus said something similar?



NEXT WEEK:

Matthew 22:15-22

Jesus Questioned about Paying Taxes