

**What excuses do you hide behind to shun God's call?** Jesus urges us to abandon excuses, and repent. "Today, if you hear His voice . . ." see Deuteronomy 1:26-38; Psalm 95:6-11; Hebrews 3:7-19; 4:1-8

**Have you received the King's Son,** or are you rejecting Him, facing judgment? "He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God . . ." (**John 1:11—NIV**)

### From Revelation 19

1 After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting:

"Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

2 for true and just are his judgments.

He has condemned the great prostitute  
who corrupted the earth by her adulteries.

He has avenged on her the blood of his servants." . . .

6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,  
and his bride has made herself ready.

8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear."

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)

9 Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God." (**Revelation 19:1, 2, 6-9—NIV**)

**Go, invite others to come!** The table is open, until He returns. ". . . for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (**Romans 10:12-13—NIV**)

See you at the Table?

**A Discipleship Tool of Christ Community Fellowship**

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## A Royal Wedding Banquet Invitation!

The King Deserves, Expects Your Respectful Reply—Matthew 22:1-14

An invitation to a Royal Wedding Banquet—who gets those? Who ignores those? Worse still, who abuses and kills the ones inviting you? Or, who comes to such a regal feast, but willfully rejects known cultural expectations, showing up in a self-willed, disrespectful manner? And to what kind of person would you compare such rude beasts?

Matthew 22 is a third parable from Jesus aimed at, and condemning, the scheming religious leaders. They remind Jesus of a son who says "yes" to his father but doesn't truly obey. Even worse, they are like tenant farmers that kill the vineyard owner's son in an attempt to take over his domain. Incredible! Such wretches deserve a wretched end (Matthew 21:28-46).

Could Jesus' assessment and condemnation of these hard-hearted hypocrites get any harsher? It does! (Wait until you hear Jesus in Matthew 23.) What warnings do we need to hear for ignoring, and disrespecting God's gracious call to come to Him, His way? Hear this potent parable:

**22:1** "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 him 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."

15 Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words."

(**Matthew 22:1-15—NIV**)

## Properly Reply to the King's Gracious Invitation

### Invitations are an honor and thing of grace.

- Especially one from a King! *YOU want ME to come?*

### Invitations come with responsibilities

- Respectfully reply and properly comply
- Shunned, torn up invitations are insults
- Maligning, mauling the messengers who invite you deserves, incites retribution

### Invitations have expectations, and assumed correct ways to respond

- It is shameful to presume on and redefine an invitation to fit your own terms
- Doing so is an arrogant rejection of the understood terms of the invitation
- Doing so also invites a response of wrath from the King
- Who dares insults Him, His Son, that way?

**The King already told some people:** “My Son is getting married. You are invited to the Banquet. Stay ready, date to be announced (TBA).”

**The Glorious Day Arrived!** Word is sent out: “Today’s the date. Ya’ll come.” The Honored Invited Guests replied: “Nah . . . not coming.”

**Patient, and gracious,** the King tells his messengers: “Re-invite them. Fatted calves are slaughtered—no expense is spared. Come!”

**The reply:** “Did you say something?” as they went about life as usual. Others said: Grab those annoying servants. Let’s abuse, beat, shame them. Let’s really send our reply and kill a few.

**Enraged, the King** this time sent troops to destroy them and their city.

**“Change the focus!” cried the King.**

“Since the original audience rejected Me, and my splendid table, Go stand in the busy intersections, invite any and all to come.”

**The servants scattered,** sharing the open invitation. The banquet hall was packed with all kinds of people—good, bad.

**Will the indignities and insults never end?**

Even after inviting everyone to come, the King is still being insulted. People knew it was a wedding, and what that means as a guest.

**“Friend, why did you disrespect me, presumptuously coming unprepared?”**

“You knew it was a wedding celebration and you came like that? How dare you come in a way that insults Me, My Son!? Who do you think I am?”

**The man had no response**—there was no excuse. He had come, but only in body, not with a humble, grateful heart. He too faced the King’s wrath, rejection.

**Alas, although you invite** many people, not all respond in ways that show a true accepting of the King’s grace. Many are invited, but come on the King’s terms!

## ***RSVP—ASAP!***

- Jesus was telling these Leaders that they knew God had made clear that someday He would send His One—His Son. Jesus is making it clear; it is time, He is here (cf. Luke 14:16-24; Hebrews 1:1-3)
- Yet they ignore, shun, reject His invitation, kill His messengers (cf. 21:33-46)
- They deserve judgment: the destruction of Jerusalem (70 AD) and Revelation 18-22
- Now, the offer to come is extended to any, all, good, bad. See Acts 1-10; Romans 1:16-18; 9-11
- This is the King, His Son, His feast of honor (Revelation 19:6-8)
- Do not presume to come on our terms (Ephesians 2:8-10)

## Closing Applications, Additional Study

**Jesus’ presence was the ultimate call to respond to the King.**

- “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (John the Baptist, Matthew 3:2)
- “From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17)
- Jesus: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” (Mark 1:15—ESV)

**No reply is a “No” reply.** Foolish, fatal, and at some point, final.

**Shunning, Shaming, Killing God’s Message / Messenger** Invites Destruction, Separation, Eternal Exclusion

**Coming to God on “Your Own Terms”** is also a disrespectful, damnable “No”! Whose priorities rule, run your life? Review Matthew 6:32-34; Romans 12:1, 2

**The King’s invitation has an expiration date:** “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.” **(2 Peter 3:8-10—NIV) (cf. John 1:10-14; Romans 10:9-13)**