

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of September 5, 2021

Jesus Stories: Parables For People Like Us

The Wedding Guest, Matthew 22:1-14

Pastor Johnson- 8:30 & 10:30 Traditional, Pastor Hall- 10:30 Contemporary Service

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events or faith experiences since you last met?

- Are there joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- **Opening Discussion Question-** What is the most grace-filled thing you have seen happen at a wedding?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the scriptures from this week's sermon message and then discuss the questions which follow as time allows. There are more questions than you will have time for, so it is ok to be selective.

Matthew 22:1-14

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. ³He 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. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷The 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. ⁹So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰So 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. ¹²He 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.”

1. If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

2. What four kinds of responses to the invitation to attend the wedding of the royal Son do we see here in this parable?
3. Two of these responses bring a strong response from the King. Do you believe the King was justified in his expectations and responses? Why or why not?
4. Where does the gracious aspects of the King come across?
5. What major points do you believe Jesus is trying to convey to his disciples through this parable about the kingdom of God?

Other Related Reading (10 min)

1. Would a volunteer please read aloud Matthew 11:16-19.
2. How does this passage compare the ministry of John the Baptist and the ministry of Jesus?
3. What kind of responses to their ministries are negatively described here?
4. What is the wise way?
5. How are the topics of repentance and joy in the love and grace of the Lord present in the sermon passage this week (above)?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

1. As you reflect upon the sermon and the scripture readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
2. What would it mean for us this week to respond to the Lord's invitation and choose to show up and wear the robe?
3. Pastor Deandre's questions in his message:
 - Am I willing to accept what God wants?
 - Am I just too busy for God?
 - Am I too afraid of how God might change me?
 - Have I rejected God's joy for my life?

Witness and Closing (10 minutes)

- How would you respond to a wedding invitation given to you from God which said the following?
"You are cordially invited to a royal wedding and reception. You may share this invitation with as many people as you like."
- A volunteer may conclude by leading the group in prayer about the joys and concerns shared earlier in the meeting