

Connect Together

What do you make of this statement by C.S. Lewis: "There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says in the end, 'Thy will be done.'"

Lesson Verses - Matthew 22:1-14 (CSB)

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables: 2 "The kingdom of heaven
is like a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his
servants to summon those invited to the banquet, but they didn't want to
come. 4 Again, he sent out other servants and said, 'Tell those who are
invited: See, I've prepared my dinner; my oxen and fattened cattle have
been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding
banquet.' 5 "But they paid no attention and went away, one to his own
farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his servants,
mistreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged, and he sent
out his troops, killed those murderers, and burned down their city. 8
"Then he told his servants, 'The banquet is ready, but those who were
invited were not worthy. 9 Go then to where the roads exit the city and
invite everyone you find to the banquet.' 10 So those servants went out
on the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The
wedding banquet was filled with guests. 11 When the king came in to see
the guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed for a wedding. 12
So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding
clothes? ' The man was speechless. 13 "Then the king told the
attendants, 'Tie him up hand and foot, and throw him into the outer
darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 "For
many are invited, but few are chosen."

Study & Apply

1. Remember: In the previous two parables Jesus taught about the "vineyard" to represent a place of work, that represents earth and to follow the command of loving each other.

    a. Where do you suppose the wedding banquet represents? Who and who will not be there, and who do they represent? What about their state of righteousness is surprising (v.10)? Why did the uninvited get to attend, but the first group did not? (v.2, Revelation 19:6–10, 21:1-2; John 17:3, 14:2)

APPLY: According to the Bible, the new has come, and the experience of being there in its future fulfillment is often compared with feasting and celebration. According to the Bible, even evil people will be able to enter (v.10)? Who is the message of the cross for? How should we respond to people who do evil—even toward us? (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

2. In verses 11-13, there is an uninvited guest not wearing the wedding clothes (often translated garment). This person is not allowed to enter the Kingdom of God.

    a. What do you suppose this necessary wedding garment is? (Genesis 3:21-24; Revelation 3:4, 7:13; 19:8; Isaiah 61:10, 64:6)

    b. Where do you suppose the outer darkness represents? Who will be there besides the one who was thrown out? Why? (John 3:3; 2 Thessalonians 1:8–9)

APPLY: How can such imagery of these places in the future, and the presence of God and Jesus Christ (or the lack thereof), play into our hope and for the purposes of evangelism? Why must a full explanation of the gospel contain both the good and the bad?

Discuss & Share

Read Ephesians 4:20-24. What does the Bible command those who know Christ to do? What does that person look like after they have changed? How can living in this way affect your life, your relationships, and even your future? (See also from verse 25~)

Grow & Minister

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.