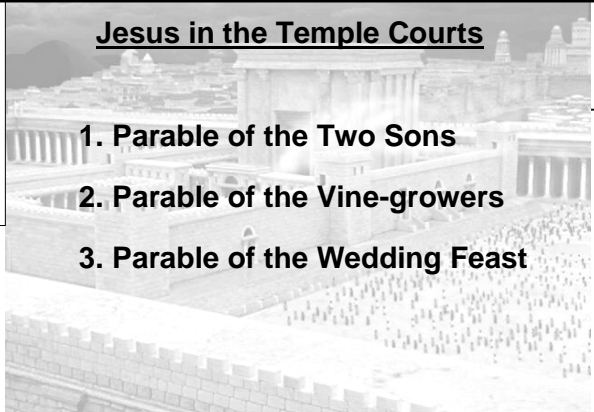

 **The Gospel of Matthew**

“The Wedding Feast & the Wedding Clothes”
 Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus in the Temple Courts





- 1. Parable of the Two Sons**
- 2. Parable of the Vine-growers**
- 3. Parable of the Wedding Feast**



Parable of the Wedding Feast


Matthew 22:1-14



 **The Wedding Feast**

Symbolic Elements of the Parable

- the king is God
- the son is the Messiah (Jesus)
- the wedding feast is the kingdom inheritance
- the slaves are the prophets/preachers
- the invited guests are Israel and its leaders

 **The Wedding Feast**

Main Point of the Parable:

- Israel’s persistent refusal to respond to God in faith and obedience, culminating in the rejection of His Son, will result in their judgment and replacement by an unlikely people



The Wedding Feast

Highlights of the Parable

1. The lavish banquet of the kingdom
 - God invites us to share in His inexhaustible, unending, all-satisfying joy and pleasure
 - God, the King, is honored when we come and freely receive what He has prepared



The Wedding Feast

Highlights of the Parable

2. The absurdity of refusing the invitation
 - disinterest, hostility and preoccupation with everyday life appear ridiculous in light of the nature of the invitation
 - refusal is a great insult to the honor of the King



The Wedding Feast

Highlights of the Parable

3. The indiscriminate invitation of the King
 - the gospel invitation is extended to all everywhere, without exception
 - there is no moral precondition for responding to the gospel invitation



The Wedding Feast

Highlights of the Parable

4. The necessity of "wedding clothes"
 - the wedding clothes likely represent the "fruit" that accompanies salvation
 - it is possible to initially respond to the invitation and not be part of the wedding feast

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?

And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

Matthew 7:21-23