

Context

- 1] Jesus is in Jerusalem for last time, days before put to death
- 2] Speaking to chief priest, elders etc – knew He was talking about them (21:45)
- 3] Three parables on God's judgement - Two Sons, The tenants and the wedding banquet

NB Some commentators suggest that this passage is an amalgamation of 2 parables (1-10 and 11-14) and that verse 7 is out of place and not part of Jesus original parables. We hold that this is the Word of God and He intends it as a single entity here.

Main Point The invitation is general, but only a few, the 'needy', are selected by God.

Key verse For many are invited but few are chosen (14)

??? Why is it 'chosen' - Should it not be 'accept the invitation'?

Parable

- a) Where is God represented? God is the King / God is 'the Son'
- b) With whom are we meant to identify? The invited – the first - refused, the second – accepted or the third – those who try to sneak in another way.
- c) What is the subject? Those refusing God's invitation will be excluded from His Kingdom

Summary

Jesus continued in parables showing God's righteous rule. (1, 2a)

The King gave an invitation for his son's wedding banquet through his servants. It was rejected and they were ill-treated and killed. The enraged King totally destroyed them. (2b-7)

The King told his servants to invite all the waifs and strays and they filled his hall. (8-10)

However, one slipped in on his own and was expelled. (13)

The point – many are called but few are chosen (14)

The subject - parable the Kingdom of Heaven

1] Jesus always spoke in parables 'so hearing they might not hear'. (13:13)

2] Kingdom of Heaven = The unchallenged rule of God

The first invitation (2-7)

1] The King for his son's wedding

Cf 'the wedding banquet' (19:7, 9; 25:10)

** Jesus has a wedding banquet in Heaven (Rev 19:7, 9) .*

2] Announcement I (2, 3)

a) Servants - to those who had been invited

I.e. invitations sent out, the Wedding feast now ready, not to those already invited.

nb The Lord invited His people (the Jews) to the wedding banquet of His son / Heaven.

b) refuse to come

The Lord respects our free will – he invites

3] Announcement 2 (4-6)

a) Dinner prepared – everything ready.

b) seized servants and ill-treated them.

Cf Killed servants + killed son (21:39)

4] King's response (7)

Cf Vengeance is mine says the Lord (Rom 12:19)

God is emotional (enraged). God is vengeful (he destroys the city)

The second invitation (8-10)

1] The first invited 'didn't deserve to come

Nb Those entitled rejected (cf 21:41)

2] The second invitation – street corners (waifs, strays, beggars etc)

3] All invited – 'both good and bad'

GGG God invites 'the good and the bad'

4] Filled the wedding hall

The interloper (11-13)

1] King notices man not wearing wedding clothes

2] 'Friend – not wearing wedding clothes'?

cf friend - Judas (Matt 26:50)

cf 'fine linen, clean and white' (KJV) (Rev 19:8)

** God views all as 'friends '**

3] Speechless

Nb there will be no appeal before God

4] Judgement

a) bind hand and foot

b) throw into darkness

cf the people walking in darkness have seen a great light (Is 9:2; Matt 4:16)

Jesus = light of the world (1:4, 8:12)

c) wailing and gnashing of teeth

** God is a faithful and true judge**

The 'crux' (14)

'For many are invited but few are chosen'

Conclusion:

1] Receive the invitation (1)

2] Go to the wedding with the King's servants (10)