The Great Marriage Feast

Intro: One of Jesus’ favorite way of teaching was the use of parables. A parable is the placing of one thing beside another with a view to comparison. It is a narrative drawn from nature or human circumstances the object of which is to set forth a spiritual lesson. One parable that Jesus gave was the great marriage feast found in Mat. 22:1-14. Let us try to learn some spiritual lessons found in this parable.

I. THE KINGDOM IS A FEAST.

   A. It supplies the deepest of needs for mankind.

   1. Forgiveness

      a. Forgiveness is tied to the groom, Jesus Christ.

         (1) Eph. 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”

         (2) 1 Pet. 1:18-19 “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot;”

         (3) 1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

      b. Only in the kingdom (church) do we find forgiveness.

         (1) The church (kingdom) is married to Christ. see, Eph. 5:22-33 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 21For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”

         (2) Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

         (3) Eph. 5:23, 25 “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.... 25Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”

         (4) Rev. 1:5 “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”

            (a) John was writing to the churches; Rev. 1:4 “John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;”

            (b) John was a companion in the kingdom; Rev. 1:9 “I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”
c. Outside of the church there is no forgiveness of sins.

2. Peace
   a. That peace is found in Jesus.
      (1) Isa. 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”
      (2) The heavenly host said; Luke 2:14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”
      (3) John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”
      (4) Rom. 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”
      (5) Phi. 4:7 “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
      (6) Col. 3:15 “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”
   b. What is peace?
      (1) It is having a harmonious relationship, contentment, tranquility.
      (2) It is not the absence of alarm, but the presence of God.
   c. What this peace involves?
      (1) A peace with God.
      (2) Peace with self.
      (3) Peace with others.
      (4) Peace with circumstances.

3. Joy
   a. This joy is found in our bride, Jesus Christ.
      (1) Phi. 3:1; 4:4 “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe....4:4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”
      (2) 1 The. 5:16 “Rejoice evermore.”
      (3) 1 John 1:4 “And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.”
   b. Mat. 5:3-12 “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 3Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. 4Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. 5Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. 6Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. 7Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. 8Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 9Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 10Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 11Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 13Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 14Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 15Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.”

4. Purpose
   a. We need a purpose in life.
      (1) Mat. 6:22 “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.”
      (2) Phi. 3:13-14 “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 13I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”
      (3) Ecc. 12:13-14 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14For God shall bring
every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

b. That purpose is praising God and being obedient to His word.

5. Hope

a. What a miserable life to live without hope.

b. Through Jesus Christ we can have hope.

(1) Heb. 6:18-20 “That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.”

(2) 1 Tim. 1:1 “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;”

(3) 1 Pet. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

c. This hope gives us joy.

(1) Jer. 17:7 “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.”

(2) Rom. 12:12 “Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;”

d. What we have hope for.

(1) The resurrection.

(a) Acts 24:15 “And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.”

(b) 1 Cor. 15:19-20 “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.”

(2) Eternal life.

(a) Col. 1:5 “For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;”

(b) Tit. 1:2 “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”

B. It provides full satisfaction to those who hunger and thirst.

1. Mat. 5:6 “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

a. We must hunger and thirst as newborn babes.

(1) 1 Pet. 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”

(2) Through this we grow; 2 Pet. 3:18 “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

b. We hunger and thirst after righteousness.

(1) Psa. 119:172 “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteous.”

(2) Rom. 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
2. Far too often, we fail to go to the scriptures to be filled.
a. 1 Cor. 3:1-3 “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”

b. Heb. 5:12-14 “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

II. THE MARRIAGE FEAST IS FOR ALL.
A. Christ died for all.
1. John 1:29 “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”
2. Heb. 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”
3. 1 Tim. 2:6 “Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”
4. 1 John 2:2 “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

B. Christ invitation is for all.
1. Mat. 11:28-30 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
2. John 7:37 “In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.”
3. Rev. 22:17 “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

III. NOT EVERYONE IS GOING TO ACCEPT THIS INVITATION.
A. Mat. 22:3, 6 “And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. 4Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. 5But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: 6And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.”

B. We must make the invitation to all but some will fight against it.
1. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

2. The parable of the sower.
a. Luke 8:4-15 “And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable: 5A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. 6And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. 7And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. 8And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. 9And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. 10And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? 11And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. 12Now the parable is this: The
seed is the word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."

b. Some fell on soil that was by the way side, which the devil took away from their hearts.

3. John 5:39-40 “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.”

C. Most will be lost.
1. Mat. 22:14 “For many are called, but few are chosen.”
2. Mat. 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

IV. WE MUST DON THE PROPER APPAREL.

A. We must put on clothing for the wedding feast.
1. 2 Cor. 11:2 “For I am zealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”
2. Eph. 5:25-27 “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”
3. Rev. 19:7-9 “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.”
4. There was a man at the feast who brought displeasure to the King because he did not have on the proper apparel.
   a. This might have been as a result of failing to put on the garment.
   b. It might have been as a result of misplacing the garment after he had arrived.

B. We must make sure that we have on the proper apparel.
1. Far too many are entirely lacking in the proper apparel, whether failing to put it on or misplacing it after having put it on.
2. We must teach people repentance.
   a. First repentance involves a change of heart or mind.
      (1) A decision to no longer serve sin and wickedness.
      (2) The decision to serve the Lord.
   b. This leads to a change in action.
   c. This is the putting on of the proper apparel.
3. What is the apparel we are to put on?
   a. Righteousness; Rev. 19:8 “And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”
   b. Eph. 5:27-29 “That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

So ought men
to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:"

(1) Holy
(2) Without blemish

c. Col. 3:12-14 “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humility of mind, meekness, longsuffering: 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”

d. The fruit of the Spirit; Gal. 5:22-25 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

e. The Christian graces; 2 Pet. 1:3-7 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”

f. Love; 1 Cor. 13:4-8a “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth:”

C. Rev. 3:4-5 “Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. 5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”

V. WE MUST NOT FORGET THE KING.
A. Our King is a loving, kind, merciful, and a longsuffering God.
1. This is seen in the fact that He bid one’s to come to the wedding feast. They rejected the offer, yet He bid them to come again.
2. This is also seen in the fact that He sent His servants out to invite as many as they found.

B. Our King is also a vengeful God.
1. Notice what the King did to those who rejected His invitation.
   a. If you made a feast which cost you your only begotten son, how would you feel if someone declined your invitation.
   b. Jesus paid for the feast with His blood, it cost God His only begotten Son; Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
2. Notice what the King did to the one who failed to have on the proper apparel.
3. Our God is to be feared.
   a. Mat. 10:28 “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”
   b. Heb. 10:29-31 “Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of
grace? 30For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. 31It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

c. Heb. 12:25, 29 “See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:...29For our God is a consuming fire.”

Conclusion: The bride and the Spirit say come. Accept the great invitation to the Lord’s marriage feast today.