

# Three Disastrous Attitudes Toward the Kingdom of God

Matt. 22:1-14

## Introduction:

- A. Parable's two main points.
  - 1. God's preparation of the kingdom of God. (v. 4)
    - a. From Adam to Jesus.
    - b. All of man's spiritual needs.
  - 2. God's wrath upon those who reject the kingdom (v. 7, 13).
- B. Parable's primary application.
  - 1. To Israel's rejection of the kingdom — Jerusalem destroyed (v. 7).
  - 2. To Gentile's invitation after Israel's rejection. (vv. 8-10).
- C. Parable illustrates three disastrous attitudes toward the kingdom of God.

## Discussion:

### I. A Lighthearted Attitude (v. 5).

- A. In making light of the invitation (the gospel) these were disrespectful of:
  - 1. The King and His Son.
  - 2. The servants and their message.
  - 3. The provisions made for them.
- B. Today's great problem: God's word is taken too lightly.
  - 1. About salvation from sin. (Rom. 6:23; Acts 2:38).
  - 2. About the church. (Acts 20:28; 2:47; Eph 3:10,11).
  - 3. About duties as Christians.
    - a. Assembling (Heb. 10:25)
    - b. Studying (Hos. 6:4; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:15)
    - c. Worshiping (John 4:24).
  - 4. About godly living (Tit. 2:11,12).
    - a. Modesty - chastity (1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Pet. 3:2)
    - b. Marriage - divorce. (Matt. 19:9)
    - c. Honesty - Ethics. (Rom. 12:17).
- C. Three common ways of making light of it:
  - 1. Give no attention to it at all.
  - 2. Ignore it and go about their business. (v. 5; cf. Jas. 1:23, 24).
  - 3. Pass it off as a joke.

### II. A "Cruel-hearted" Attitude (v. 6).

- A. These didn't like message, so killed messengers.
  - 1. Stephen (Acts 7)
  - 2. James (Acts 12:2, 3)
- B. People can become cruel when way of life is threatened.
  - 1. Gospel exposes evil (John 3:20; Eph. 5:11).
  - 2. Jews felt threatened.
  - 3. Silversmiths felt threatened (Acts 19:24-28).
  - 4. Watered down gospel no threat, so no persecution.
- C. Christians kind-lighthearted to cruel-lighthearted. (Matt. 5:44)

### III. A Halfhearted Attitude (vv. 11-12).

- A. This man accepted invitation, but not responsibility.
- B. Half-lighthearted attitude still plagues kingdom.
  - 1. Want to be Christian, without living as Christian.
  - 2. Want to blessings of kingdom, without responsibilities.

## Conclusion:

- A. Will have to give an account for our attitudes toward God, his word, and his kingdom.

B. Need to realize consequences of wrong attitude (v. 13).