

THE ROYAL INVITATION

Matthew 22:1-14 – continued from December 10, 2017

INTRODUCTION: In Jesus' earthly ministry the invitation to the Messianic banquet had been extended to the Jews first, those who were of the seed of Abraham and had the promise of the covenant, the kingdom, and the King - but they refused. Jesus then began to turn to the Gentiles, and as many as believed in him would enter the kingdom in the place of the others, even if the ones who believed were the dregs of society.

In our day the invitation goes out from the Church by the Holy Spirit through the Church: "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come'." And whosoever wills may come and drink of the water of life freely. Those who refuse - whether violently opposed to Christ - or pretending to be in Christ, will have no part in the kingdom, but will be cast into outer darkness.

Verses 10-14 = carries us beyond the preceding parable of the wicked vinedressers, and shows us the judgment on the unworthy accepters of the invitation. There are two ways of sinning against God's gracious invitation: the one is refusing to accept it - the other is receiving the invitation in an outward profession, but continuing in sin. The former was the sin of the Jews - the latter is the sin of nominal Christians. Let us all examine our own hearts to make sure that we are in fact "in the faith" both in word and in life.

A. THE PERSONAL INVITATION – TO THE JEW – vv. 1-7

1. ISRAEL'S SHAMEFUL REFUSALS

vv. 2-3 = Time of Christ's Ministry on earth – 30-33 AD

vv. 4-6 = Time of the Holy Spirit's Ministry from Pentecost to 70 AD

2. GOD'S _____ RESPONSE

vv. 8-10 = Time of the Holy Spirit's Global Ministry from 70 AD to Present

B. THE _____ INVITATION – TO THE WORLD – vv. 8-10

1. THE _____

2. THE _____

3. THE _____

C. THE _____ GARMENT – FOR THE GUESTS – vv. 11-14

1. _____ OF THE GARMENT

2. _____ OF THE GARMENT

3. _____ OF THE GARMENT

CONCLUSION: