

143. Story about a Wedding (Matthew 22:1-14)

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for inviting us to believe in Jesus and live with You forever in heaven. Please make us faithful to You. Help us trust in Jesus as our only way into heaven. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.

Matthew 22:1-3. Jesus told them a story. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like this: a king's son was getting married, and the king had a wedding feast for his son. The king invited people to come. He sent servants to tell them to come, but those people refused."

- In the story, who is the king? Who is the king's son?
- What is the wedding feast? Where and when will that happen?
- Who did God first invite to come to His "wedding feast?" Who are the servants who invited the people to come?

Matthew 22:4-7. The king sent more servants. He said, "I invited those people. Tell them my dinner is ready. I killed and prepared my oxen and fat cows. Everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast." But the people ignored the invitation. One left and went to his field. Another person left and went to work. Other people grabbed the king's servants. They beat and killed the servants. The king was very angry. He sent his army and destroyed those people and burned their city.

- The king invited people to come. How did they respond? What did they do?
- What did the king (God) do to those people who abused His servants?
- Was there something wrong with God's invitation? Why did people refuse to come?

Matthew 22:8-10. The king told his servants, “The wedding feast is ready. But the people I invited were no good. They didn’t deserve to come. Go into the streets. Invite anyone you can find.” The servants went into the streets and gathered everyone they could find. They gathered people both good and bad. The wedding hall became full of people.

- The first people invited didn’t come. Now who did the king invite?
- Who did God first invite to His kingdom? Who did God invite second?

Matthew 22:11-14. The king came in to see all the people. He saw one man who was not wearing the right clothes for a wedding. The king asked, “Friend, you have no wedding clothes. How did you get in here?” The man couldn’t answer. The king told his servants, “Tie him up. Throw him outside, into the darkness. Out there, people cry and mourn.” Many people get invited, but few people get chosen.

- Something was wrong with one man at the wedding feast. What was wrong?
- In the story, having the right wedding clothes allowed you to come to the wedding feast. What are your “wedding clothes” that allow you into heaven?
- The man without wedding clothes somehow got into the feast. Could he stay? Where did he end up going?
- God wants many people in heaven, right? If someone wants to come, why would God not let someone enter heaven? (Think about how the man got in, and how God wanted him to get in.)
- What does it mean, “Many people get invited, but few people get chosen?” Who are the many people who get invited? Who are the few people who get chosen? Why are they different?