

PARABLE OF THE WEDDING DINNER
MATTHEW 22:1-14

Have you ever seen pictures of a wedding? Well, sometimes there's a big dinner party after the wedding ceremony. Jesus used stories about ordinary everyday earthly things to teach people special things about God and heaven.

One day Jesus told the people this story or parable. "A king's son was getting married" Jesus said "and there was a big wedding party. But the people he invited would not come. So he sent for them again. But some would not listen and some killed his messengers. When the king heard about it he sent his soldiers to destroy those murderers and burn up their city. Then the king said "the wedding dinner is ready but I will not let those I first invited come. Go out into the streets and invite everyone you see to come." So the messengers brought as many people as they could.

The king gave a gift to each guest, a new outfit of clothes and he required that the guests wear these clothes at the wedding dinner. But when the king went into the dining room, he noticed a man in his regular clothing. "Friend," the king asked, "why no wedding clothes?" The man was silent for he had refused to take them. The man wanted to do things his own way, not the king's way. He only wanted the good things from the king without loving and obeying the king. Then the king was very angry and said to his servant "tie this man up and throw him into the dark dungeon where people are kept who will not obey me."

In this story, the king means God. And the king's son means Jesus. Those who were first invited and did not come were the Jewish people who were the first to be asked to believe in Jesus. But many of them would not do it. The people who were invited afterwards are the people of other nations who believe in Jesus. The man who refused to wear the wedding clothes is anyone who pretends to believe and to accept God's invitation but does not really obey God's Word. He might fool others but God sees his heart. God knows who really loves Him and wants Jesus as their Saviour.

If you are sorry for your sins, the wrong things you have done, God invites you to believe that Jesus died for you. When you do this, God forgives your sins for Jesus' sake. Then God says to love Him and read His Word the Bible everyday and to pray and do what the Bible says is right. Take time to read today's Bible story in Matthew chapter 22 verses 1 to 14 and ask God to help you to be like the ones who accepted the wedding invitation. Receive Jesus as your Saviour and love Him.