



## *The King and His Kingdom*      *Matthew 22*

### The Invitation of a Lifetime

#### Parable of the Wedding Feast (Messianic Age)

King (Father)	=	God
Bridegroom (Son)	=	Jesus
Servants	=	Prophets, John Bapt.
Invited guests	=	Israel
Second guests	=	Gentiles
Wedding garment	=	Faith
With no garment	=	Hypocrite
Bride (unstated)	=	Church

V. 3 call: to call aloud, utter in a loud voice: *to call one to approach or stand before another.*

V. 3 who have been invited: *properly, formally invited*

God's first invitation to the wedding feast of his Son was to his chosen people, Israel. But the people rejected the invitation and killed those who delivered it. Israel's continued stubbornness caused God to also call the Gentiles into his kingdom, as he planned to do from eternity.

(Commentary) "*Whatever we have of the world in our hands, our care must be to keep it out of our hearts, lest it come between us and Christ.*"

An unworthy guest rejected the garment (**salvation by grace through faith**) offered freely by the King. He wanted the favor of the King (**heavenly feast**) while refusing the King's requirements for admission.

He wanted the favor of the king  
without being subject to the king.

He was a hypocrite

Where grace is received and yet not allowed to change one's heart and shape one's life, it is received in vain.

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"...humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." James 1:21-22

#### Three examples of hypocrisy and rejection of Christ:

Pay taxes to Caesar (15-22)—"they left him and went away."

Resurrection Q & A (23-33)—"...astonished at his teaching."

Whose Son is He (41-46)—"they asked no more questions."

**"For many are called, but few are chosen."**

(Read Formula of Concord, Epitome, Article 11, Par. 12.)

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### **Walking in Matthew's Sandals**

#### Further study and discussion:

Read Matthew 22:15-22. All believers in Christ live in two realms—a civil realm established by God and administered by human government and a heavenly realm under authority of God alone. How did Jesus explain a believer's allegiance to each realm? What is a Christian's responsibility to his or her government?

Read Matthew 22:34-40. Questioned as to which laws were most important to obey, Jesus gave two replies: love God with all of your heart, soul and mind (Deut. 6:5) and love your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:18). What did Jesus mean when he said "all the Law and the Prophets" depend on these two commandments? How does this teaching apply to the situation of "paying taxes to Caesar" in verses 15-22?

**Luther:** "You may say it is utterly impossible for a person to keep these two commandments. Yes, it is impossible for you to keep or perform them. You cannot do it; God must do it in you, for him it is possible."