

# Sermon Notes – May 5, 2019

## Review

- ⇒ We've seen that Matthew presents Jesus as "the Christ" – the long-awaited and often-promised Messiah, and as "the Son of David" – the Davidic King promised in II Samuel 7. This gospel is full of references to OT Scripture and talk about "the Kingdom."
- ⇒ Last week we heard God's call to the nations to come to Him, a call that echoes through all the Hebrew Scriptures and comes to even sharper focus in the Great Commission.

## Today's Text: Matthew 22:1-46

Our text today begins with Jesus as a story-teller extraordinaire! Jesus was a masterful and colorful public speaker, enough so that "the common people heard Him gladly" (Mark 12:37). The rest of the chapter is like a boxing match with four rounds, together giving a graphic illustration of those "invited to the wedding feast, but [who] would not come" (22:3). What about you? Will you come?

## God, the Generous and Patient King, Invites YOU!

- ⇒ The chapter is built on the opening parable – a story with a point! God is the King, Messiah Jesus is the Son, the servants are the prophets (including John the Baptist), the wedding feast is the Kingdom, and the initial invitation goes to the nation of Israel. **Hint:** The parable again emphasizes the \_\_\_\_\_!
- ⇒ Cultural protocol required an early "Save the Date," followed by the official \_\_\_\_\_. That those invited "would not come" is an unexpected and audacious turn of events. After all, the king himself had issued the invitation and the event is of great significance! Why would anyone NOT come?
- ⇒ The king is amazingly \_\_\_\_\_ in sending an additional summons which is also rejected, with violence, injury, & death.
- ⇒ \_\_\_\_\_ now falls on those who have again rejected the gracious offer, and the invitation is now extended far beyond the original audience, so the wedding hall is "filled with guests."

One Great Banquet, Many Lousy Excuses  
Matthew 22:1-46  
Pastor Jay Mosser

- ⇒ The one requirement for all who attend, is that they be covered by a "\_\_\_\_\_ " supplied by the king himself.

## Round 1: It's NOT About Taxes

- ⇒ The point of this exchange is clearly explained in v. 15 – it's a classic \_\_\_\_\_, aimed at getting Jesus in trouble. The discussion of taxes is secondary.
- ⇒ Speaking of taxes, Jesus' very wise response hinges on the "likeness & image" on a coin. Do you see the point? Caesar's image is on a coin; it belongs to him. God's image is...

## Round 2: It's NOT About Marriage

- ⇒ A different antagonistic group now comes with a theological conundrum. It's the kind of question aimed at stirring controversy, and not aimed at pursuing \_\_\_\_\_. (I Timothy 6:4 – "craving controversy")
- ⇒ Jesus' answer is more about "how it isn't" than about "how it is" in heaven, and He confronts their refusal to believe in the doctrine of resurrection.

## Round 3: It IS About Good Theology

- ⇒ An expert in OT law now asks Jesus a truly important question, though again, intended to trap Him (34). Jesus' answer not only gets to the heart of the Hebrew Scripture but reveals what is \_\_\_\_\_ in those who question Him. (John 5:39-42 – "You do not have the love of God in you")

## Round 4: It IS About the True Identity of Jesus Christ

- ⇒ Jesus now turns the tables on His questioners with an inquiry about the identity of the Messiah. Specifically, why would the great King David call his descendent "Lord"?
- ⇒ Jesus' point is that the Messiah is not only the "Son of David," but also the "Son of God."

## Response to God's Word

- ⇒ Those who decline the invitation of the King do so because they're too busy with the wrong things. They have other priorities, that is, they have **wrong** priorities. Busyness is indeed one of our greatest curses! We pack our lives so full that we can barely think – or relate to God & others! What about you? Are you so busy with "good things" that you don't have time for the truly important?

- ⇒ Busyness is often a symptom of an empty life and an empty heart. We fill the space, so we don't have to admit the emptiness and brokenness within. Christ calls us to examine our choices, priorities, & our "loves."

## Community Group Notes

### Getting Started

It's springtime! What things do you do to celebrate spring? Do you plant flowers? A garden? Take walks?

### Talking It Through

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: Read the text (Matthew 22:1-46) and review the main sermon points from your notes. What was the sermon about?
2. Talk about Jesus' parable for a bit and compare it to the similar story Jesus tells in Luke 14:16-24. How are the stories similar and how are they different? What might Jesus be wanting to emphasize with the details given in Matthew's account?
3. In the latter part of the parable, Jesus describes a guy who accepts the invitation to the wedding feast, but refuses the wedding garments, in a sense saying, "I'll come, but I'll come on my own terms." What kind of person might he represent? Why does Jesus include him in the story?
4. Talk about the "art of good excuses" for a bit. Those who declined the king's invitation had "reasons" for doing so. One guy had a farm to attend to, another had some business to attend to. So what was the problem? Were they really too busy?

5. The parable is followed by several attempts to get Jesus to mis-speak, to get Him in trouble with the government, or to have Him say something that would ruin His reputation. How do people do the same thing today? Have you been around people who use questions to deflect attention from truly important things? Do YOU ever do this?
6. The question about the Great Commandment in the Law is really a good one! Jesus was probably glad that the guy asked it so He could give a clear answer. How does Jesus' answer have special significance to that specific audience? Why did they need to hear that answer so much?

### Taking It Further & Taking It Home

We often love to "beat up on" the Pharisees & the Sadducees because they're so occupied with appearances and so neglectful of things that are truly important. They quote Scripture, pray great prayers (in public), and appear righteous to others...but they're enemies of Jesus! **READ Luke 18:9-14**, and ask yourself, "What did God see in each of these individuals, and which one am I most like?"

### Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs.

Next Sunday – Mother's Day Worship: May 12, 2019

"Christian Parenting in an Age of Fear"

(Psalm 56 – A Psalm of Trust)

Pastor Jay Mosser

**Answer Key:** ▪ Nations ▪ summons ▪ patient ▪ Judgment ▪ wedding garment ▪ set up ▪ truth ▪ lacking ▪