

Matthew 22 – Wedding Feast Escalation

1. That escalated quickly!
 - a. Introverts don't like parties
 - b. But don't *kill* the inviters!
 - c. Jesus uses extremes and the unexpected to teach us in his parables.
2. Not normal number 1:
 - a. This is NOT a normal party
 - i. Not a staff party talking to the “story-topper” by the punch bowl
 - b. This is the Wedding Feast of the King's Son!
 - i. This will change history and the Kingdom as a bride is brought in
3. Not normal number 2:
 - a. The decliners' excuses are weak, apathetic, and violent!
 - b. They all decline *two* invitations!
 - c. Our politics are divided – one side will boycott an event bc they are opposed
 - d. These decliners steadfastly, continuously, ignore and stand opposed to the Son's celebration.
 - i. This is not the twelve year old child with questions
 - ii. This is unrepentant hostility to the King and his Son and the Kingdom and the Bride
 1. Historical referent: The prophets and apostles and martyrs being killed
4. Somewhat Normal number 3
 - a. The King's response is severe – or is it JUST in regards to the killing of his servants
 - b. Historical Referent for this too: The burning of Jerusalem in 70ad under Titus
 - c. A warning for us who celebrate the King:
 - i. May we heed his word to repent of our murder – 1 John 3:15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not reside in a murderer.
 - ii. Repent of our Lust Matt 5:28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
 - iii. Repent of our Apathy – Rev 3:16 So because you are lukewarm-- neither hot nor cold--I am about to vomit you out of My mouth! Instead may we pick up our crosses and follow after our King who goes to a cross that our evil might be washed away.
5. Which, by the way, leads to Not Normal Number 4

- a. The King sends out more invites to the Good and the EVIL!
 - i. Is the King unjust!? Wait on that...
 - ii. This is an amazingly beautiful few words from our Lord
 - 1. Does our past, or current struggles, or performance influence whether we get this invite? How can it if good AND EVIL are invited?
 - a. Historical referent: You! In East Idaho with your sins, are invited to this party.
 - b. "Heaven can't be for me, I'm not good enough, Oh I've disqualified myself, I've been too apathetic for sure..."
 - c. No! This invite is yours! For all! Rejoice, God made you and he wants you at the Wedding Feast of His Son!
 - iii. But how could this be, he doesn't approve of evil does he?
 - 1. No, he does not...
- 6. Not normal Number 5: Someone is removed from this party.
 - a. Was security too lax? Is this teaching that people can sneak into heaven? No!
 - i. It's teaching that the King will not have our evil offend his presence – so it must be covered.
 - ii. What could cover the sins we have done? Projection, good deeds, excuses...
 - 1. In the parable? A robe!
 - a. Baptism – Receive this white cloth symbolizing the Robe of Christ's righteousness that Covers all your sin.
 - b. Funeral liturgy that line is repeated.
 - c. Scriptures: Rev 7 -Who are these coming out of the great tribulation? They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
 - d. Ephesians 5: 25-27 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. And Verse 32: This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.
- 7. Not normal number 6:

- a. If you belong to Christ, if you celebrate his Death, resurrection, coronation. If you confess this One and are baptized in his name. Then you are the Church.
 - b. And if our good/bad marriages are a reflection of God's sacrificial, and promised love for his bride the Church...
 - c. Then that means at this Wedding Feast... you are not at table 17, waiting and waiting for your table to be called to get in the buffet line...
 - d. It means you have a spot at the HEAD TABLE as a member of the bride of Christ.
 - i. Men get uncomfortable – but don't worry – This One will wash us clean, this One has made us his own in sacrificial, promised love, and he has made us, officially, a part of the Kingdom of the Great King-the Father.
8. This parable escalates quickly. The evil extreme, but the blessing and love just as much. God is just, he is merciful, he has given the Son to make us his children of the Kingdom and wash us clean. Rejoice in his Work. Amen.