

MESSAGE NOTES: Matthew 22:1-14

"But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city." (Matthew 22:5-7)

"So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.' He asked, 'How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?' The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are invited, but few are chosen.'" (Matthew 22:10-14)

3 Objections

1. God's Displeasure and Rejection of Unwilling

"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.'" (Matthew 22:8)

2. The Existence of Eternal Torment

"Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" (Matthew 22:13)

"where 'the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.'" (Mark 9:48)

"He asked, 'How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?' The man was speechless." (Matthew 22:12)

3. The Selection of Some and The Exclusion of Others

"For many are invited, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:14)

STUDY GUIDE:

STEP ONE: Icebreaker (Optional):

- If you could create a new tradition for weddings, what would it be and why?

STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture Reading

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **Matthew 22:11-14**.

STEP THREE: Discuss Questions

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. Why do you think the man was so surprised to hear the king's response to him being at the wedding without the proper attire? What do you think Jesus was getting at here by sharing this man's reaction?
3. In what ways does the king's response to the guest without the proper attire shed light on the nature of God's holiness and justice?
4. Talk about the verse "many are called, but few are chosen" within your group. What can be said about God's character in response to this verse?
5. What parallels can you draw between the guest's lack of a wedding garment and the human tendency to rely on their own behavior/performance?
6. Read Titus 3:5. How is this story that Jesus told something that can remind us of the hope found in this verse?

STEP FOUR: Prayer

- Ask someone in your group to close in prayer.