

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Matthew 22:1-14
Lesson #21
Wedding Clothes
02/16/2020

Matthew 22

“ 1 And Jesus answered and spoke to them again in parables, saying, 2 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king, who gave a wedding feast for his son. 3 And he sent out his slaves to call **those who had been invited to the wedding feast**, and they were unwilling to come. 4 Again he sent out other slaves saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited,’ Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast.” 5 But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, 6 and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them. 7 But the king was enraged and sent his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and set their city on fire.”¹

“8 Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were **not worthy**.’ 9 Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.’ 10 And those slaves went out into the streets, and gathered together **all they found, both evil and good**; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests. 11 But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw there **a man not dressed in wedding clothes**, 12 and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14 **For many are called, but few are chosen.**”

2

The context of the parables in Matt.21-22

1. Jesus enters Jerusalem and **cleanses the temple** of the money changers.
2. Jesus’ **authority is challenged** by the religious leaders of his day.
3. Jesus **responds** with three parables that explain why God’s kingdom is taken away from Israel and given to others.

- The delinquent SON refuses to work after saying he will.
- The delinquent TENANT refuses to turn over the harvest to the owner after working.



- The delinquent GUESTS refuse to properly honor the wedding of the King’s son after being invited.

3

Jesus is speaking prophetically to Israel (and the world).

- The **king** is God.
- The **son** is Messiah (Jesus).
- The **invited guests** are Israel.
- The **slaves** are God’s prophets.
- The **punishment** is exile.
- The **outsiders** are Gentiles.
- The **proper clothes** are a ticket.
- The **outer darkness** is exclusion.



4

But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw there **a man not dressed in wedding clothes**, 12 and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

14 For many are called, but few are **chosen.**”



5

What does it mean to be “chosen”, “worthy”, or have “proper wedding clothes”?

1. These three expressions seem **related**.
2. Being “chosen” (elected) is connected to being “**receptive**” to the King’s call to the feast.
3. It also requires being “**properly**” dressed for the feast.

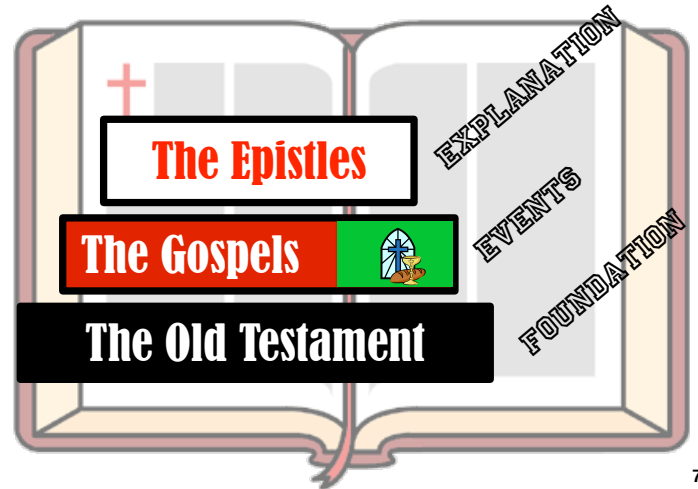
Paul’s letter to the Romans provides a commentary on this parable.



1. **Why was Israel displaced** by Gentiles? (ch.9-11)
2. What is the nature of **proper wedding clothes**? (ch.1-8)

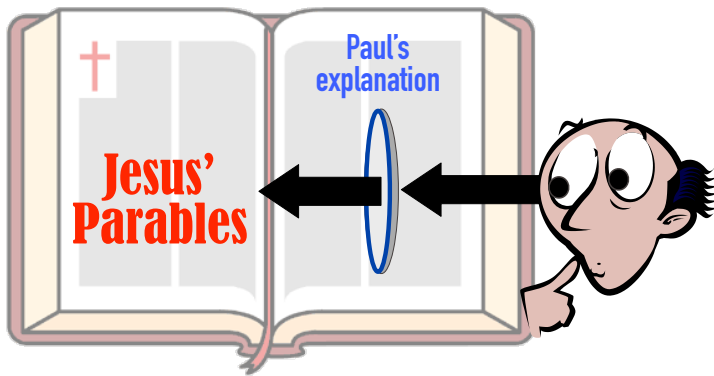
6

THE GOSPEL STORY



7

We interpret the Scriptures through lenses.



8

Not all people who show up for the kingdom of God **will be allowed in**.

Luke 16

Some common but false beliefs that will exclude people from the wedding feast:



“¹⁵ And He (Jesus) said to them (leaders of Israel), “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God. ¹⁶ The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since then the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached, and **everyone is forcing his way into it.**”

9

False belief #1

Faith is a gift to the elect only.

Romans 11

“⁸ just as it is written, “God gave them a spirit of stupor, Eyes to **see not** and ears to **hear not**, down to this very day.” ⁹ And David says, “Let their table become a snare and a trap, and a stumbling block and a retribution to them. ¹⁰ Let their eyes be **darkened to see not**, and bend their backs forever.””

Israel’s **insight** shaped the object of her faith.

It is **insight** and **ears to hear** that shape saving faith.

10

General observations on FAITH.

- ✓ Everyone has faith **in something**.
- ✓ Saving faith starts with **insight**, which is the result of many factors.

Repent



μετανοέω

metanoeo

meta - “**after**”

noeo - “**to perceive**”

to change the way we “see things” and thus what we believe and how we behave

11

General observations on FAITH.

- ✓ Everyone has faith **in something**.
- ✓ Saving faith starts with **insight**, which is the result of many factors.
- ✓ The real issue is - the **object and subject** of our faith.



Satan does not want to take away our faith, hope, and love. He just wants to direct the **object and subject** of our faith, hope & love.

12

- For lessons on **election and free will**.

apptoteach.org

Biblical Insights

John #24,
Romans #28,
Ephesians #3,

Hot Topics

Reading the O.T. #20,



13

False belief #2

Zeal for God and moral discipline will make us right with God.

Romans 10

“1 Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a **zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge**. 3 For not knowing about God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

Israel’s zeal for God and moral discipline reflected a real faith but in the wrong thing.

14



“In the absence of truth, power is the only game in town.”

Richard John Neuhaus

When truth is **shaped by preference or tradition** it will soon be reduced to political **power** and personal **passion**.

15

**False belief #3
The Law was given to **confirm** who was acceptable before God.**

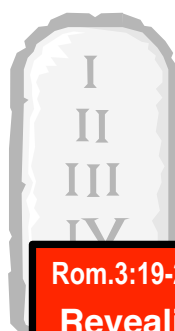
Romans 3

“19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, that every mouth may be closed, and all the world may become accountable to God; 20 because **by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight**; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.”

God’s Law is given to **convict us not to confirm us.**

16

The Law as a Tutor



Revealing Christ as worthy

**Gal.3:12
Revealing the meaning of the Cross**

**Rom.3:19-20
Revealing our sin and need**

Galatians 3:24
Therefore the Law has become our **tutor to lead us to Christ**, that we may be justified by faith.

17

“So we can say, reverently, that God never gave us the Law to keep: **He gave us the Law to break!** He well knew that we could not keep it.”

Watchman Nee

“The Normal Christian Life” Page 158

“Law was given
that grace might be sought,”

Saint Augustine

**Death is the only sure escape
from the law’s condemnation.**

18

False belief #4 **The Gospel of Jesus rests in his ethical teaching and example.**

Romans 3

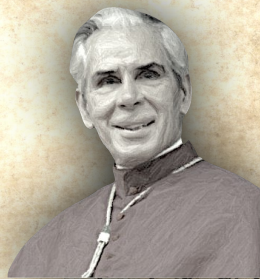
“²¹ But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God through faith in **Jesus Christ** for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in **Christ Jesus**; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a **propitiation in His blood** through faith.”

**Jesus fulfilled the Law FOR us
not through us.**

19

Fulton J. Sheen

“Of all the great
religious leaders
of history, Jesus
is unique in
that he alone
came for the
purpose of
dying.”



20

3 different definitions of Christianity

do



It’s about personal **piety**.



It’s about social **justice**.



done

It’s about orthodox **doctrine**.

21

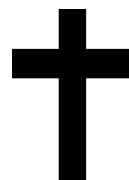
**Christianity is the only religion
that celebrates the death
of its founder.**



**and calls
its participants
to be living sacrifices.**

22

The great symbols of the faith ARE



The Cross



The bread and cup



Water Baptism

**reminding us of our sharing in
Jesus’ death and resurrection.**

23

The emphasis of the Gospels



24

Gospels

The Passion and Resurrection

the ethical teaching and deeds of Jesus

The emphasis of the Epistles

Epistles

25

False belief #5

Good works empowered by the Holy Spirit are necessary for reconciliation with God.

Romans 4

"⁴ Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. ⁵ But to the one who **does not work, but believes** in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness, ⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing upon the man to whom God reckons righteousness **apart from works**: ⁷ "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, And whose sins have been covered. ⁸ Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account."

The righteousness of faith is apart from our "good" works.

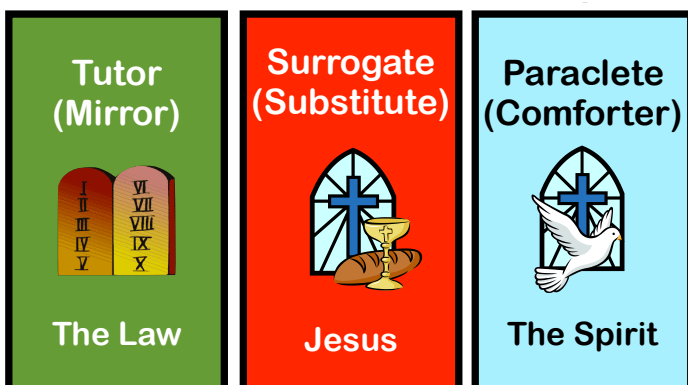
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General observations on FAITH.

- ✓ Every human has faith **in something**.
- ✓ Saving faith starts with **insight**, which is the result of many factors.
- ✓ The real issue is - the **object and subject** of our faith.
- ✓ **Saving faith** should be distinguished from the "walk of" faith.
- ✓ True faith always produces **inner fruit** (a changed heart and life direction) and normally (but not always) **outer fruit** (a life of love & truth).

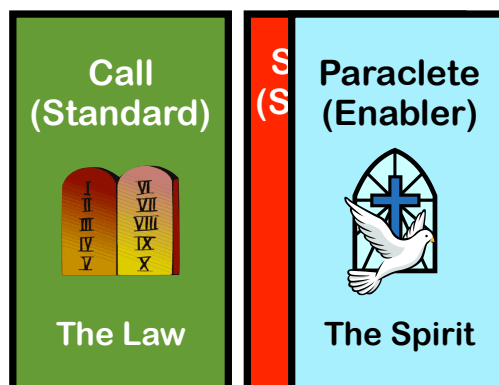
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Don't confuse the ministries of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.



28

Don't confuse the ministries of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.



The Spirit points us to the cross. He does not double down on our obligation to keep the Law.

29

Illustrations of our union with Christ in the New Testament.



Baptism
(Rom.6:3-7)



Building
(1 Peter 2:4-7)



Bride
(Eph. 5:22-32)



Body
(1 Cor. 12:27)



Branches
(John 15:1-16)

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False belief #6

The righteousness that saves comes from **Christ's Spirit working through us.**

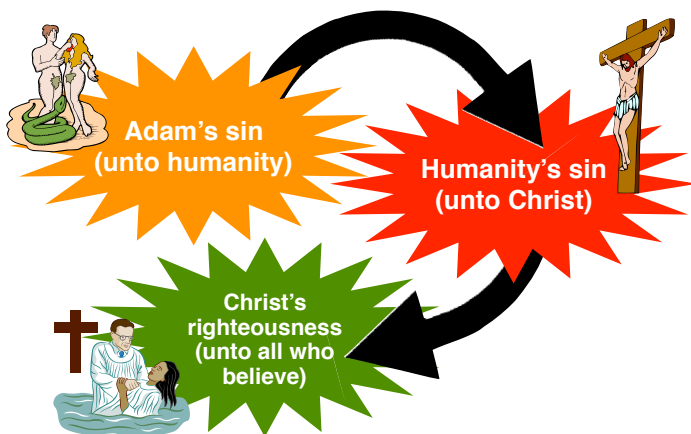
Romans 10

"18 So then as **through one transgression** there resulted condemnation to all men, even so **through one act of righteousness** there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous."

The righteousness that saves us is **imputed to us by faith.**

31

Three great imputations



32

A great change was preceded by a great exchange

2 Corinthians 5:21

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."



33

Romans 8:1

"Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:9

"(that I) may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith."

"Holiness is not the way to Christ;
Christ is the way to holiness.
Better still, **Christ is our holiness.**"

Charles Spurgeon

34

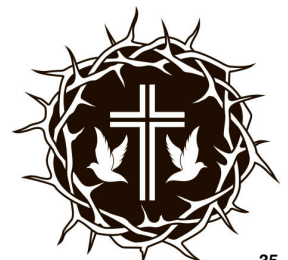
The kingdom of God asks:

What's in your heart?

Unlikely promise keepers -
Moral Brokenness

Fruitful stewards -
Image of God

Worthy guests -
Righteousness of Faith



35