

Responding to the Call
Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus refuses to reveal himself to liars.

Jesus refuses to reveal himself to liars.

Jesus reveals to liars truth about themselves.

"And again Jesus spoke to them in parables." (1)

Jesus refuses to reveal himself to liars.

Jesus reveals to liars truth about themselves.

Jesus reveals to liars the consequences of their rejection.

Three Kinds of Invitees (“Called”)

1. Insincere Acceptors (2-7)

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“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, (2)

“and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, **but they would not come.**” (3)

They refused.

“Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner,

“my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”

“But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.” (4-6)

They **refused**.

They **ignored**.

They **refused**.

They **ignored**.

They **murdered**.

“The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.” (7)

1. Insincere Acceptors (2-7)
2. **Eager** Acceptors (8-10)

“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not **worthy**.

“Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’

“And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good.” (9-10)

“main roads” = the traffic circle outside the city where all the country roads converged to one road into the city

1. Insincere Acceptors (2-7)
2. Eager Acceptors (8-10)
3. **Exceptional** Presumer (11-14)

“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment.

“And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.” (11-12)

“Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness.’

“In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.” (13-14)

Main Point: The kingdom of heaven is filled with those who know they **bring nothing** and are willing to **receive everything**.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3

Theological Implications

1. No one comes to the king's feast unless they are called.

“Lord, 'tis not that I did choose you;
that, I know, could never be,
for this heart would still refuse you
had your grace not chosen me.

“It was grace in Christ that called me,
taught my darkened heart and mind;
else the world had yet enthralled me,
to your heav’nly glories blind.”

Josiah Conder

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world,

“following the prince of the power of the air,
the spirit that is now at work in the sons of
disobedience —

“among whom we all once lived in the
passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires
of the flesh and the mind,

“and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,

“even when we were dead in our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ — by
grace you have been saved —

“and raised us up with him and seated us
with him in the heavenly places in Christ
Jesus,

“so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing;

“it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:1-10

2. The kingdom of heaven is neither for **legalists** nor **liberals**.

The kingdom is not **earned**.

The kingdom is not **earned**.

The kingdom is not **free**.

3. The visible people of God have always included **true and false** followers.

Matthew 7 - separation of the imposters

Matthew 7 - separation of the imposters

Matthew 13 - wheat and weeds - separated

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good and worthless fish - divided

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Matthew 25 - wise and foolish bridesmaids

3. God will **severely judge** those who spurn his kindness.

Responding to the Call

“Nothing terrifies more than the No
your lover whispers through a closed door:
You may die for all I care, just go!

“Nothing terrifies more than the No
of denial catching in your throat
when Christ the lover of your soul wants more.

“Nothing terrifies more than the No
you whisper to Love
through a closing door.”

J.S. Absher

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

Hebrews 3:15

“You have often been told that the very workmen who worked for Noah, and who were, no doubt, paid their wages, or they would not have worked, perished also.

“They helped to saw the wood, to lay the keel, to drive the bolts, to put in the oakum, to use the pitch, to strengthen the timbers,

“but after all that they had done not one of them escaped.

“And so the chapel-keeper, the pew-opener,
the elder, the deacon, the minister, the
bishop, the archbishop,

“all those who have had a function in the church, who have had something to do with the good staunch vessel of Christ’s gospel,

“except they themselves be in Christ by a living faith, they must perish as much as the despisers and the outcasts.

“Here, then, is the solemn line: all out of Christ lost; all in Christ saved; all unbelievers perishing; all believers preserved in him. Here is a rule without an exception.”

Charles Spurgeon

“Nothing terrifies more than the No
you whisper to Love through a closing door.”

J.S. Absher