

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 17TH-18TH, 2020 // BOOK OF MATTHEW

## AN INVITATION (MATTHEW 22:1-14)

### A GRACIOUS OFFER

Jesus tells the story of a king who invites people to the wedding of his son, which would have been a huge honor. But as Jesus tells the story, there were those who did not want to come. So the king does an amazing thing: he sends out a *second* invitation! This is a stunning act of grace on behalf of the king!

- **He's a loving Father who wants us to be with Him forever.**

### A GOOD NEWS EVENT

The king's servants were sent out with good news that the wedding was ready. The king loved his son and wanted his wedding day to be well-attended. The king also wanted the people to celebrate, too. The king wanted to share the joy of his son with all his people.

- Jesus was offering the religious leaders, who hated him, a place in His kingdom if they would humbly accept.

### A REMARKABLE RESPONSE

One group of guests paid no attention to the servants' invitation because they were too distracted. Another group became violent, seized the king's servants, and killed them. These responses were remarkably prideful and showed the true disdain those people had for their king.

- **People still respond to the gospel in the same way today. They are either too distracted or too opposed.**

### THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES?

The king is rightly enraged by the actions of the people to his invitation. They have insulted him and treated him, and his representatives, as if he were nothing. Those listening to Jesus would have seen the response of the king as justified.

- **Some see God as a powerless deity who is undeserving of our attention or affection. However, Jesus is just and will punish all who demean Him.**

### WHO IS WORTHY?

The king's son will be honored. Those who rejected the invitation proved they weren't worthy. The king decides he will invite all who accept his invitation, whether they are perceived as evil or good. The issue isn't their current moral condition. The issue is will they honor the son.

- There is a beauty to the gospel shown in the call to all who will come to Jesus. **We may limit the call, Jesus doesn't.**

### THE KING SETS HIS TERMS

The king sees a guest dressed improperly for his son's wedding and has him thrown out. Jesus closes the parable with "many are invited, but few are chosen." If you will come to Jesus, **you come on His terms.**

- Some will reject His invitation **out of greater care for other things, some because they hate Jesus.** Others will **show up on their own terms, not Jesus', and be rejected.**
- Matthew 7:21-23

### WHOSE KINGDOM? (MATTHEW 22:15-22)

#### JESUS IS "SET UP"

Two enemies who hated each other decide to team up to trap Jesus. The Pharisees hated Roman rule and wanted a free Israel while the Herodians followed the Herodian dynasty which was friendly to the Roman government. Based on taxes, the question hoped to put Jesus in an impossible position: would He reject Roman rule or embrace it? Either way, the two parties hoped Jesus would lose favor with all.

### SARCASM HAS BEEN AROUND FOR A WHILE

The enemies set up the question with a load of sarcasm and false praise. They refer to Him as "Teacher" and say He always tells the truth and teaches God's ways truthfully. The one truthful statement they make is that Jesus doesn't care what anyone thinks.

- **Our words reveal the condition of our hearts.** These men didn't care about the truth, they wanted to destroy Jesus and their words proved it.

### WHO DO WE SHOW ALLEGIANCE TO?

Jesus is asked if it's right to pay taxes to Caesar or not. Jesus sees through the question and calls them hypocrites as they pretend to be something they're not. The question is one of authority and legitimacy. Who has the greatest authority? Do governments have legitimate authority?

- As Christians, **Jesus and His Word determine our relationships with all authorities.**

### AN AMAZING ANSWER

Jesus asks for the coin used for the tax, a denarius, which was a day's wage. One side has the image of Caesar and the other an image of a god. Jesus legitimizes the authority of the government by giving to

Caesar what is Caesar's.

- Paul (Romans 13:1-7) and Peter (1 Peter 2:13-17) take up Jesus' teaching and make clear the role of government under God.

### GOD'S ULTIMATE AUTHORITY

If the coin bears the image of Caesar and belongs to him, we bear the image of God and belong to Him. Caesar didn't create us, God did. Caesar didn't die for us, Jesus did.

- All things belong to God, including us. This means we look at all things through the lens of Jesus, His Word, and His kingdom. **Christians should be the best citizens as we love God and others.**

### TRUTH (MATTHEW 22:23-33)

#### MORE QUESTIONS

The Pharisees and Herodians had their shot at Jesus and failed. Now the Sadducees try stumping Jesus. The Sadducees were theological liberals who only acknowledged the Torah (the first 5 books of the Bible) and did not believe in a resurrection. Their question, which probably confused the Pharisees and other teachers, was given to Jesus with the hope of a similar result.

### A CONFUSING SITUATION

For Israel, the land was incredibly important as it fulfilled promises made to the Patriarchs. Having heirs to live on the land was essential. What happened if a man died before having an heir? The Jews developed a way in which the nearest relative could marry the widow, have a child, and the child would be considered the dead man's heir. This would ensure the land stayed in the dead man's name.

### A CURSED FAMILY

The question: what if a brother died before having children, then his brother marries the widow and he dies before having children and so on through a total of 7 brothers? When the widow dies, whose wife would she be in the resurrection?

- There are questions that are asked for information and others that are asked to cause confusion or bring an accusation. This was a question of the second sort.

### WHAT JESUS KNEW

Jesus knew the Scriptures teach that God is the God of the living, both now and in the resurrection. Jesus also knew that resurrection life will hold differences from our current lives.

- **We won't be angels but like angels in the resurrection. Because resurrection life will be eternal, there will be no need for procreation and thus no need for marriage.**

### THE WISDOM OF GOD

The crowds and the religious leaders are amazed and astonished by the teachings of Jesus. It is apparent that Jesus has both authority and wisdom.

- **While Jesus had this because of who He is, we have it because we have the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, the Bible. If we humbly submit to God, the Holy Spirit will give us what to say when we need it.**

### IT'S HIS KINGDOM, NOT YOURS

- Entrance into God's kingdom is by grace through faith. **Entrance isn't earned, it's given as a gift.**
- Because it's given by grace, **the call goes to everyone without exception.**
- Distractions from and disagreements with the King cause many to reject His offer to join His kingdom.
- Living in the kingdom **requires humble submission to Jesus.**

### HIS KINGDOM COMES FIRST

- **We are citizens of the Kingdom of God who happen to be American, not Americans who happen to be Christian.**
- **God's kingdom always comes first** because it's eternal and He says so.
- If you want to be a good citizen **be a disciple of Jesus and know His Word.**
- **All nations are under King Jesus, without exception.**

### HIS WORD HIS WAY

- Most people won't accept Jesus' invitation to join His kingdom because they don't like what He says in His Word.
- **How has living your way worked out so far?**
- **We need to quit standing over the Word and submit to it. Only Jesus has the words of life.**
- The Bible shows us the way to freedom.

### NOW WHAT?

- You can respond to the King's offer right now **through repentance and faith.**
- You can ask questions.
- You can have someone pray with you.
- You can take communion.