

## RSVP

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-5 Dan: Camps. REAL. Counseling training. *Intro CCBC video* (Alexis, info booth)
- B. Slide6 FPU - *A practical plan that can help you discover God's way of handling money, empower you to get on a budget, get out of debt, save for the future, give more, take control of your money.* [flyer in Gazebo. Contact Steve & Kristinea Cotteen]
  - 1. 9 week course held during 3rd service. Free preview 2/5. 1st class 2/12.
- C. Slide7 JM6 - January is HT month. Our 6th annual conference is *next Sun*.
  - 1. Slide8 In n Out: Slave 2 Nothing. Placemats. Backpage Adult Services Ads shut down

II. Slide9 **Intro: RSVP - Please Reply** [Répondez (ray-PON-day) s'il vous plaît]

- A. I was reading the *Top 10 Wedding Invitation Etiquette Questions Answered*. I'll read 3.
  - 1. We're having an adults-only wedding (no kids). How can we make sure this is clear to our guests? How do we let guests know our dress code? I invited my friend and her boyfriend (by name on the invite) to the wedding, but they recently broke up. Now she wants to bring a friend I don't like - can I tell her no? I added a 4th, When you pay \$30-50 a plate for a family of 5, that RSVP yes, & they are a *no show*, can you send them a bill?
  - 2. Wedding planning can get difficult. *Who to invite? Who to not invite? Who can sit by who at the tables? etc.*
    - a) Well, when God planned a wedding, He had just as many problems.
- B. Parable of the Wedding Feast.

III. Slide10 **3RD PARABLE (1)**

- A. (1) This is a 3rd parable in a series of 3.
  - 1. Again this was spoken in Jesus' last week on earth, as he experienced hostility from the *Pharisees, Chief Priests, & Elders*.

IV. Slide11 **WEDDING PLANNER (2)**

- A. The Gospel is *a glorious festival* in honor of that wondrous marriage, **by which God & man** are made one. [*truly, a match made in heaven*]
- B. **Note:** the King made all the arrangements, not his wife, not the son, **but** the king.
  - 1. **Note also** it's about **His Son's wedding**...the bride is never mentioned. *Here comes the groom!* [Rev.19:7 *Let us be glad and rejoice and give **Him** glory, for the marriage of **the Lamb** has come, and His wife has made herself ready*]
- C. This world has put on some opulent weddings - **Than Shwe** (Myanmars Junta up till 2011). Daughters wedding 40-50 mill. Outcry when 10 min video leaked to Youtube. Esp when less than \$1 a year is spent on healthcare pp, per year.
- D. **Read** Esther 1:1-9 nlt - *Now thats a banquet!* **Now**, can you imagine **God** putting one on.

#### V. Slide12 **SAVE THE DATE (3)** *The 1st Invitation* (a general invitation)

- A. It was a special invitation from the King Himself.
  - 1. A Royal Invitation was equivalent to a Royal Command.
  - 2. If disobeyed, the refuser's would suffer the consequences.
- B. **The Jews** were *highly honored* in being chosen out of all the nations of the earth to attend the wedding of the Kings Son.
  - 1. **Note:** not that they **could** not come, they **would** not come. [*they were not willing*]
- C. **The custom was 2 invites:**
  - 1. **The 1st** asked guests to attend. Usually it was issued suddenly.
  - 2. **The 2nd** announced all was ready.
    - a) **Just like when** *Ahasuerus & Haman* were **invited** by *Esther* to a feast, **and then** when it was **ready** the kings chamberlains went to get Haman (5:8; 6:14).

#### VI. Slide13 **DINNER IS SERVED (4)** *The 2nd Invitation*

- A. The king continued to make preparations for the wedding.
- B. The big day came, so He sent them out again to remind them they were invited to the banquet.
  - 1. Oh, what a Patient King....*another opportunity*.

- C. **All things are ready** - This parable echo's *Wisdom's invitation* in Prov.9:2-5  
*She (wisdom) has prepared a great banquet, mixed the wines, and set the table. 3 She has sent her servants to invite everyone to come. She calls out from the heights overlooking the city. 4 "Come in with me," she urges the simple. To those who lack good judgment, she says, 5 "Come, eat my food, and drink the wine I have mixed.*
1. Don't you get frustrated when you prepare a hot meal & your family doesn't come right away. (*It's getting cold!*)

## VII. Slide 14 **HEAVEN CAN WAIT (5,6)** *The Kings Actions met Reactions*

- A. The bulk of the Jewish race gave small heed to Apostolic Preaching.
1. They **went their ways...not the Kings way...not The way.**
    - a) Carnal men, love carnal things. They are *earthbound*.
- B. **They made light** - to neglect, to be unconcerned. [some hostile, some indifferent]
1. **They blew off their RSVP.**
  2. **Some** might have *doubted the truth* of it. **Some** might have just *ignored* it.
  3. **Others** maybe had strained *ruler/subject* relationships. **Others** flat out just refused to attend. **Others** took it to another level by *being disrespectful & even killing* the kings messengers.
    - a) Have you made light of God's love for you?
    - b) Are you more concerned w/your home/farm than w/the things of God?
    - c) Is your business, stocks, or trade consuming you?
    - d) Have you been accused of being married to your work?
- C. (6) **And killed them** - Stephen was the 1st martyr of the truth after the Lord's crucifixion, & by no means the last.
1. If the blood of the martyrs is the **seed** of the church, the holy land was **plentifully sown** w/it in the early days of Christianity.

## VIII. Slide 15 **REJECTION = DESTRUCTION (7)** *Rejection = Destruction*

- A. Israel's **rejection** of the Invitation *led to* the **destruction** of Jerusalem.

1. The siege of Jerusalem, the massacre of the people, & the destruction of the capital were all described. [those that were interested in *the farm*, bought the farm]
  - a) The Roman Emperor **Vespasian** thought **he** was sending his armies against the Jews; but he was unconsciously, working out the eternal purpose of **the most high God**
  - b) As God did w/both **Assyria & Babylon**, using them to punish Israel in the past.
- B. We not only see the **incredible Love** of the King in this parable, **but** also His **incredible Wrath**.
  1. Look at the descriptive words: vs.7 *furiously, destroyed, burned up*. Vs.13 *bind him, take him away, cast him into outer darkness, weeping/gnashing of teeth*)
  2. As deep as His **Love** reaches...It's the same depth His **Wrath** will stretch.
    - a) *God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.* (Deut. 4:24)

#### IX. Slide16 **OPEN INVITE (8-10) In Wrath Remember Mercy** Hab.3:2

- A. Read 21:43 *taken and given to a nation...*
- B. The door opens to the Gentiles....the wider commission.
- C. **Highways** - *The place where a street cuts through the city boundary & goes into the open country.* LKGNT
- D. **As many as you find** - this indicates *no limits* to the invite.
  1. The King is a picture of benevolence & this portrays the mercy & love of God extended to sinners.
  2. **He wants all to come to His feast.** And that Invitation is *still open today.*
- E. (10) You're either **a missionary** or **a mission field**.
- F. **Good & bad** - It's the gathering of the **visible church**.
  1. It's the **tares** growing alongside the **wheat**. It's the **wheat & chaff** lying on the same floor together. It's the **dross** will be mingled w/precious **gold**. It's the **goats** getting in among the **sheep**. It's the Gospel net enclosing *fish of every kind, both bad & good.*
- G. **Happy guests** - Wow, out of the **streets** & into the **palace**...*can you imagine?*
  1. Spurgeon said, The beggar was taken from the dunghill to sit w/princes in the presence of the king.

2. **Guests** = reclining guests.

X. Slide17 **NO SHIRT, NO SHOES, NO SERVICE (11-13)** *Missed It By That Much*

A. **The garment** symbolizes the wearer has been forgiven, his sins have been covered, & he is a member of the household of God thru Christ.

1. Like Lk.15:22 *But the father said to his servants, bring out the best robe and put it on him.* [this guys decided to keep on his **sweats**]

2. By wearing *the wedding garment* furnished by the King, no one reveals poverty or misery. [eg. Dal Rae, coat & tie to use]

a) Slide18a Rev.19:10 *why did John fall down, what did he just say?*

b) Slide18b Rev.19:7-9

(1) God's beautiful balance of **Man's responsibility & God's sovereignty.**

(a) **Man's Responsibility**...*she has made herself ready.* (7).

(b) **God's Sovereignty**...*to her it was granted* (8).

(2) Her wedding gown is...**her righteous acts.**

(a) We seem to get a *white garment* at salvation, which is from Him. **Then** we make a dress on top of it, where every *good work* is **another stitch** in the making of our *wedding dress*. [The **1st salvation**; the **2nd sanctification**]

(3) Eph. 2:10 *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do **good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

3. This man was worse than those who had refused the invitation; **for** while he professed to accept it, he only came that he might **insult** the King to his face.

a) God has foes w/o **&** w/in the Church.

4. **Why did he come in?**

a) For some temporary benefit? In hopes to catch a glimpse of the King or His Son? For the desire to belong to a group? To be around good people? To taste of the *Kings caviar, sushi, or Turkish Delights?*

5. **Note to self**...be sure **not** to wear your **self-righteousness** (Is.64:6 *all our rt is as filthy rags*). Let **Him** provide the garment of His righteousness. Is.61:10 *I will*

*greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

- B. (12) Not everyone remains in the wedding hall. Only those who **accept the Kings invitation** AND enter the palace on **His terms**, may stay.
1. **Speechless** - muzzled. *But still not dropping to his knees.*
  2. **Woe to any w/o the wedding garment.**
  3. This man **insulted** the king in His own palace, & showed **disobedience** to the *royal requirements*.
- C. (13) **Cast him...** - cast him away, as men throw weeds over the garden wall (eg. I remember as a kid taking **the pool net** & just shaking it over the wall [MVHS]. **And worse, flinging *dog poop*** over the wall as well).
- D. **Outer darkness** - *i.e.* away from the banquet hall, where it is lit up brightly by torches & lamps.
1. It is all the more **darker** to them, because **they had seen the light** [like going from a brightly lit room, into pitch black].

## XI. Slide19 **THE FEW THE PROUD THE REDEEMED (14)** *Called & Chosen*

- A. The **masses** miss the wedding feast, & **a few choice spirits** find it, only by **God's grace**.
- B. **Called** - **not, *the* called**.
1. He was speaking of the Jews. This man w/o the robe. And those who were **called** to the feast **but rejected** the invite.
- C. **Chosen** - **All who...respond, good & bad, from the highways & byways, who *received* the wedding gown, those who would *recline* w/Him, those who rendered due **honor** to the wedding of His Son.**
1. **Like**, the children of Israel: many were **called** out of Egypt, few were **chosen** to enter.
  2. **Like**, those of Gideon's army. All were **called**, **but** only 300 were **chosen**.

3. Like, the 12 sent into spy out the land, only 2 were chosen (Caleb & Joshua).

D. Slide20 Wrap Up:

E. *A fugitive* is one who is running away from home. *A vagabond* is one who has no home. *A stranger* is one who is away from home. *A pilgrim* is one who is on the way home.

1. This morning it doesn't matter if you are *a fugitive, a vagabond, a stranger or a pilgrim*. **You are invited to the finest banquet ever prepared.**
2. I'm not asking you to leave your worries and troubles behind, **because** you'll probably just try to pick them up on your way out and be burdened by them again. **Instead**, leave them here at the foot of His cross. *Living unburdened through faith in Christ.*
3. **Slide21** This banquet has been prepared just for **you**, by the Son of God. **You are the guest of honor.** *RSVP - Please Reply* Répondez (ray-PON-day) s'il vous plaît