Matthew 22:1-14

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**.


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 (Myanmar’s 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. Slide14 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. Slide15 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 furious, 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) Your 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.
   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. Slide 20 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. Slide 21 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