

The Wedding Banquet

Matthew 22:01-22

by Don Falkos

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Jesus said:

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. When the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to inform the people who had been invited, "Everything is ready. Come to the banquet!" But they all refused to come. One went to his field, another to his business. Others seized the messengers, beat them, and killed them.

The king was furious. He said to his servants, "The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited don't deserve to come. Go out into the streets and invite anyone you find." The servants brought in everyone indiscriminately, the good and bad alike. Soon the banquet hall was filled with guests.

But the king noticed a man who wasn't dressed in wedding clothes. "Friend," he said, "why aren't you wearing the proper attire?" The man was speechless.

Then the king told his servants, "Tie him up, and throw him into the darkness outside, where he will experience bitter regret."

"Many are invited, but few are chosen."

The Pharisees sent some people to ask Jesus, "Teacher, is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" They were trying to trick Jesus into saying something he could be arrested for.

Jesus knew what they were doing. He said, "Show me the coin that's used to pay the tax." They handed him one, and he asked, "Whose face is this on the coin, and whose name is in the inscription?"

"Caesar's," they replied.

"Well then, give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God."

They were stunned. They couldn't possibly object to his statement. Their attempt to trap Jesus had left them trapped. They turned and walked away.