

## THE WEDDING BANQUET

Matthew 22:1-14

### Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- When you consider the prospect of God's judgement, what feelings, thoughts, or reactions do you have?
- Is anything required of those who accept God's grace and salvation?

Humans sometimes forget just how incapable we are. It can be easy to deceive ourselves into thinking we can achieve our way into heaven or that we know who's in and who's out. But it is for this very reason that Jesus tells the parable of the Wedding Banquet. With caution and warning, he reminds us to respond to God's invitation, he teaches us about God's judgment, and he describes what is required of those who are welcomed into God's kingdom.

**Listen:** [\*The Wedding Banquet\*](#)

### Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Recall the conversation in segment 2 between hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee about our Christian attitude toward other people groups. They note that even as Paul discusses God's rejection of the Israelites, Paul ultimately yearns for the salvation of the Jews; he deeply desires that they would recognize and accept Christ as the prophesied Messiah. What about you? Is there a group of people you can think of that doesn't acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? What is your attitude toward them? How can you yearn for their salvation as Paul yearned for the salvation of the Israelites?
- Why do you think Jesus specifies that both "the bad" and "the good" attend the banquet? What does that mean for us?
- What does it mean to you that even in a parable about judgement there is joy and an invitation to share in God's joy? What does it tell you about God?
- What changed when you received God's grace? How have you been transformed by his kindness? Is there anything that still needs to change?

### Related Passages

- **Romans 9-11:32**
- **Luke 14:15-24**
- **Isaiah 61**
- **Romans 13:11-14**

## Conclusion

Reflect on your answers to the above questions. Spend some time journaling or discussing:

- What surprised you?
- Where do you most feel convicted or challenged?
- Are you prepared? Is your life “dressed” for God’s banquet?
- What do you want to celebrate?

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<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/the-wedding-banquet>

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