



*The Lord Chamberlain is commanded by
The Queen to invite*

.....

.....

*to the Marriage of
His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales, K.G.
with
Miss Catherine Middleton
at Westminster Abbey
on Friday, 29th April, 2011 at 11.00 a.m.*

A reply is requested to:

*Senior Honorary Secretary, Lord Chamberlain's Office,
Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA*

*Dress: Uniform, Morning Coat
or Lounge Suit*



Sister Miriam Therese Winter (M.T.)

The Wedding Banquet Matthew 22:1-14

Chorus :

I cannot come. I cannot come to the banquet, don't trouble me now.

I have married a wife; I have bought me a cow.

I have fields and commitments that cost a pretty sum.

Pray, hold me excused, I cannot come.

1. A certain man held a feast on his fine estate in town.

He laid a festive table and wore a wedding gown.

He sent invitations to his neighbors far and wide

but when the meal was ready, each of them replied:

2. The master rose up in anger, called his servant by name,

said: "Go into the town, fetch the blind and the lame,

fetch the peasant and the pauper, for this I have willed,

my banquet must be crowded, and my table must be filled".

3. When all the poor had assembled, there was still room to spare,

so the master demanded of them: "Go search every where,

to the highways and the byways and force them to come in.

My table must be filled before the banquet can begin".

4. Now God has written a lesson for the rest of mankind;

If we're slow in responding, he may leave us behind.

He's preparing a banquet for that great and glorious day.

When the Lord and Master calls us, be certain not to say:

Matthew 22 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

22 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: **2** “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. **3** He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. **4** Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ **5** But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, **6** while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. **7** The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. **8** Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. **9** Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ **10** Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, **12** and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. **13** Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ **14** For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Let's look at this parable in 2 ways:

- THEN, as Jesus addressed Jewish leaders in 30 AD
- NOW, as I think Jesus would address us today

THEN:

- v. 3 “those who had been invited”
 - 1st invite: there will be a party
 - 2nd invite: the party is ready; come.
- v. 6 “seized his slaves and killed them”
 - those who came before Jesus (Judges, Prophets)
 - Jesus himself would be killed (Mt 22 is between Palm Sunday and The Last Supper [Thursday])

- v. 7 “troops destroyed murderers and burned their city”
 - Jerusalem was burned in 70 AD

The killings in v.6 and v.7 were STRONG warnings, like v.13

- v. 12 “Friend”
 - not Friend at all, but an enemy (like Pharisee or Sadducee)
 - wedding robe was provided by the King to all (free Grace)
 - What is Friend wearing? (self-righteousness)
 - Aren't we in PACE righteous, by giving and volunteering?
 - The Friend is speechless, because he is guilty. No excuses, unlike v.5. He did not accept the Grace freely given.
This is ME! I get selfish and proud.
- v. 14 Who are those chosen?

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NOW:

- v.1 Isn't a feast a waste, an unnecessary and extravagant expense? What kind of king [God] would waste resources like this? It cost him **everything** to provide food, drink and robes for us! Are we to sing and dance and laugh and love?

- v.5 Who are we insulting by refusing? The king? The son?

Think of invitations you have received:

- family asks you for “the usual” Thanksgiving/Christmas...
- best friend has tickets for RollingStones/SuperBowl/AlaskaCruise
- Is God's invitation more like “Same-o-Family” or “BestFriend”?
<Joke: Drowning Man>

- The king is God, and the son is Jesus. Who is the bride?

- In this parable, God invites 4 times. Will we accept one?



- Many are called but few are chosen (v.14)
 - To be chosen is to accept God's invitation and wear the garments He gives us
 - "Choose this day whom you will serve." Joshua 24:15
- We can invite, not demand; not just once, but keep trying.
- We can provide garments as well as food and drink.
- We serve best when we serve with Joy!