

## Loft Underground Shades of Red - Week Five

**This week the loft turns to a version of Jesus' wedding party parables. Jesus may have told a few different versions of this teaching. The loft looks at Matthew's version. Underline the phrases that speak to you at first glance.**

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them.

The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.

'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are invited, but few are chosen."

Remember the last wedding you saw – list all the parts of the wedding and reception that needed to be prepared.

How would it feel to prepare for guests only to have no one show?

You probably sensed that this is more than a "wedding parable" and decoding it gives the parable a deeper interpretation. Consider the following.

**King = God the Father**  
**Son = Jesus**  
**Servants = Prophets**  
**First Guests = Israel**  
**Army = God using Babylon**  
**City = Jerusalem**

**Summarize the parable in one sentence taking the key on the left in mind.**

**The parable describes a situation where God is doing something new in Jesus, and Israel, God's chosen people miss it.**

What are the reasons guests would not come to a wedding?

Which of these reasons most touches your daily life? What can you do to overcome it?

**Jesus' parable also has an interesting conclusion. In Jesus' day wedding guests were given a garment, a robe or coat, to wear at the party. Find that section of the parable and re-read it.**

Essentially, this guest is not dressed for the wedding. What does it feel like to not be appropriately dressed?

Again, this story is symbolic. This man represents the person who is celebrating Jesus by being in the crowd, but is not 'dressed' like Christ in his heart. In other words, he represents the hypocrite.

- Read Isaiah 59:17, what virtues listed are 'put on'.
  
- What are the virtues we 'put on' in the name of Jesus?
  
- What is Christ asking you to 'wear' that you are finding most difficult?
  - o Pray about that virtue this week.

**The point of the parable is for God to work through us rather than around us.  
Pray this week for God to work through you.**