

Dear Families:

Today we continued our study of the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus is taking on the role of teacher. This is the final parable that He tells to the leaders in the synagogue of Jerusalem:

Once there was a master who had a son that was getting married. The Master worked long and hard on preparing for the celebration for His son. When everything was finally ready, the Master sent His messengers out to the invited guests. One by one, the invited guests turned down the invitation: some were too busy working, others didn't want to go, and there were others who even made fun of the Master and His son and refused to go. The Master grew angry. He sent out his soldiers to destroy those who refused to come. Then, since everything was ready, he sent out his servants to invite anyone they found to the feast, both bad and good. And so, the hall was filled.

When the Master entered the hall, he noticed that one of the guests was not prepared- he had come wearing what he wanted instead of the expected wedding garment. The Master grew angry, had his servants bind the man, and cast him out into the darkness. Jesus then reminded His listeners that many are called but few are chosen.

This story is a great lesson. Jesus starts by reminding us that if we put our own cares before God, we will not survive. We will not be offered a seat at the King's table. However, God's kingdom is open to everyone, good or bad, that is willing to accept His invitation. That invitation, however, comes with expectations. We cannot accept God's offer of grace, then continue to live however we want. If we truly want to be present with God forever, we need to do the things He has asked us to do, and live according to His expectations. Even if that isn't what we want personally. He is willing to help us do that. Don't throw away God's precious gift because you think it's inconvenient! Give your life to God, and be welcomed at His never-ending feast!

Thank you for joining us today!

Carol McClellan, CE Director