



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Road to the Cross – Day of Controversy and Parables

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The setting is Tuesday in the temple, two days after Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the day after He cleanses the temple. Jesus is moving physically and chronologically toward Jerusalem and closer to His death and resurrection. Tuesday is a day of controversy and parables.

We find this recorded in Matthew 21:23-24:51 and similarly detailed in the Gospels of Mark (11:27-13:37) and Luke (20:1-21:36).

The Pharisees, Sadducees and other leaders are attempting to trick and verbally trap Jesus with questions, throughout the day that would call into question His authority and provide them with evidence to kill Him. Several of the questions are directed toward Jesus' requesting a response concerning the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 22:1-14

1 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying, 2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. 3 "And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come. 4 "Again he sent out other slaves saying, "Tell those who have been invited, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast." 5 "But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, 6 and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them. 7 "But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire. 8 "Then he *said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 "Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast." 10 "Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests. 11 "But when the king came in to look over the dinner

guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, 12 and he *said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' And the man was speechless. 13 "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 "For many are called, but few are chosen." (NASB)

Jesus compares, in this parable, the kingdom of heaven with a king giving a wedding feast for his son. However, those that the king called to the wedding feast believed that they had better things to do (V5). In fact they harmed and killed the messengers (slaves) that the king continued to send in order to call them to the wedding (V6). The king's patience runs out and he destroys the people and city that refused his calling to the wedding (V7). The king then sends his messengers into the country side to invite as many people as they find to the feast (V8-10). All attending, except one, were dressed in wedding clothes. (Note: it was the custom for the king to provide wedding clothes to those invited.) The one who refused to wear the wedding clothes had no excuse and was sentenced by the king into the outer darkness (V11-13).

The imagery that we find in the parable is one where many of the people, in this Tuesday setting are rejecting the king (God) and his son (Jesus) several times and subsequently, the king's (God's) patience runs out. The judgment that Jesus describes, 'set their city on fire' (V7), suggest the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

Additionally, God invites all to the 'wedding feast', kingdom of heaven. He provides the 'wedding clothes', the covering of Jesus' righteousness. Those who reject gift, the covering of Jesus, yet want to be at the 'feast' will be cast aside.

For your Consideration:

- Have you accepted the 'wedding clothes' the covering of Jesus' righteousness?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS (SESSION OR HEARING DAYS) AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44

STATE STAFF AND LOBBYIST: WEDNESDAYS AT 12:10PM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44