



Good Shepherd  
Sermon-Based Study Guide  
Matthew 22:1-14 | September 6, 2026  
Prepared by DJ Severin  
dj@gspc.org (562) 493-2553 x115

## I. Introduction to this Study

We are concluding our series by looking at Jesus' parable of the wedding banquet. Jesus tells the parable during His final confrontation with the religious leaders in Jerusalem. A king prepares a joyful feast for his son, but the invited guests refuse to come. Some are distracted by ordinary responsibilities; others reject and even attack the king's messengers. The invitation then goes out far beyond the expected guest list, and the hall is filled with people gathered from the roads, both the bad and the good.

The parable holds grace and responsibility together. God's invitation is wonderfully open. The kingdom is pictured as a feast, and unlikely people are welcomed in. Yet those who come are called to honor the King and respond with the righteousness of the kingdom. Grace receives us freely, but it does not leave us unchanged.

## II. Connecting with One Another

Have you ever missed something important because you were distracted, too busy, or slow to respond?

## III. Study the Text

*Read Matthew 22:1-10*

- What details make this invitation generous and joyful? Why do you think Jesus pictures the kingdom as a wedding feast rather than as a duty or obligation?
- The king sends servants to call people who had already been invited. What does their refusal communicate about their attitude toward the king and his son?
- One person returns to his field and another to his business. These are not bad things in themselves. How can good and necessary responsibilities make us deaf to God's invitation?
- How does the treatment of the servants recall the rejection of God's prophets? Compare Matthew 21:33-46 and 23:29-37.



- Some interpreters hear verse 7 as an echo of Jerusalem's destruction in AD 70. Whether or not that event is directly in view, what does the verse communicate about the seriousness of rejecting the King?
- The servants gather everyone they find, 'both bad and good.' What does this reveal about the breadth of God's invitation?
- How does this expanded invitation connect with the new tenants in Matthew 21:41-43 and Jesus' mission to all nations in Matthew 28:18-20?
- What is hopeful - and what is humbling - about a banquet filled with people who did not earn their place?

*Read Matthew 22:11-14*

- Why is the king's inspection an important second movement in the parable? What misunderstanding might arise if the story ended at verse 10?
- In Scripture, clothing can represent salvation, righteousness, or a transformed life. Read Isaiah 61:10 and Colossians 3:12-14. What might the wedding garment represent here?
- How can everyone be invited while only some are finally called 'chosen'? Compare Matthew 7:13-14 and 7:21-23. What distinction does Jesus make between hearing the call and faithfully responding?

*Reflect and Respond*

- Do you naturally hear God's invitation as an invitation to joy, or mainly as another obligation? Why?
- What good but temporary concern is most likely to crowd out your attention to the things of God?
- What 'garments of the heart' - expectation, repentance, faith, reverence, love, or obedience - do you most need as you approach God?
- Where is God's grace calling you not merely to attend, but to become more like Christ? What concrete response could you make this week?

#### **IV. Prayer**

*Spend time in prayer together:*

- Thank God that His invitation is to the joy and abundance of His kingdom.
- Confess the distractions, excuses, or divided loyalties that make it difficult to respond.
- Ask Christ to clothe you with compassion, humility, patience, love, and faithful obedience.
- Pray for people who feel far from God, and for the church to welcome all whom God calls.

