

Matthew 22: 1-14: The Wedding Banquet

1. When did you last go to a wedding? What did you wear? Why did you make that choice? Have you ever had an invitation to The Palace? How did that feel?
2. **Read Matthew 22: 1-14** What strikes you in this passage?
3. Why do you think the initial guests did not want to come to the banquet? Do we ever make excuses when we receive an invitation from the King of Kings? What do these sound like?
4. v9. How do you suppose the second guest list felt at receiving an invitation from the king? If we imagine the wedding banquet as the church; an invitation to celebrate with the King of Kings, who would these people be? Who is welcome at the banquet today?
5. Compare this reading with last week's parable of the Tenants. (Matthew 21: 33-46) what do you notice?
6. v11. In this culture, wedding guests were offered borrowed robes for such a celebration. Why is it important that all the guests are appropriately dressed for the banquet in the presence of the King?
7. These borrowed robes are finer than our usual garments. In spiritual terms, what might they represent? In what ways does Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, cover us with un-earned 'finery'?
8. Where do you see yourself in this story? Are you making excuses that prevent you accepting Jesus' invitation to his heavenly banquet? How do you feel about the 'borrowed robes' that we as believers are offered?
9. Listen to some worship music if possible. 'King of Kings, Majesty' would be a good choice <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5VutCGsVXE> In the quiet, reflect on all that we owe to our Saviour. How does your heart respond to this undeserved honour?

10. Time to Pray:

- Begin with prayers of gratitude for all that God has done for us in giving us His Son.
- Pray by name for the 5 friends, family of neighbours, who are yet to accept an invitation from Jesus.
- Ask God to show you where in life you are resisting his invitation. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you put aside excuses and 'come to the Banquet.'