



# Readiness For God's Kingdom

**"The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage" (Matthew 22:8-**

Bulletin VCMPJ21

2 July 2014

**"Many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14).**

In today's world indifference, misplaced priorities and self-righteousness may be fashionable, but there are serious associated dangers, which can be avoided by taking necessary pre-cautions.

"And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, 2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, 3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. 4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. 5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: 6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. 7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. 11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14 For many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:1-14).

- 1) This parable, though set in the context of a marriage feast, is focused on the requirement for entering into the kingdom of God.
- 2) The invitation was generous to all, and the provisions for the feast were free.
- 3) Note the responses of the invitees:
  - ♦ "they would not come" (vs 3)

- ♦ "they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise" (vs 5)
- ♦ Some "took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them" (vs 6)
- ♦ Some came "and the wedding was furnished with guests" (vs 10).
- ♦ One attendee "had not on a wedding garment" (vs 11).

- 4) Those who despised the king's invitation and killed his servants were killed.
- 5) The king issued new invitations by new servants to "as many as ye shall find" (vs 9)
- 6) Despite setbacks the king persisted in his purpose. God's purpose always prevails.
- 7) The servants remained faithful and obedient to the king's orders! Be always faithful.
- 8) The new invitees responded and "the wedding was furnished with guests" (vs 10). God's purpose will always be fulfilled despite the responses of others.
- 9) One of the attendees "had not on a wedding garment" (vs 11), which was freely provided, but a mandatory requirement for attendance. He probably had "good" reasons for refusing to put on the wedding garment, but when confronted by the king "he was speechless" (vs 12). Those who despise the free grace of God, will be speechless on the day of judgment.
- 10) Judgment and eternal punishment awaits all who despise and reject God's grace.
- 11) It is sobering to note that many are called, but few are chosen. It may be popular to be among the many but only the few are safe. Are you among the "many" or the "few"?