



Week 8

These weekly studies are loosely based on the previous Sunday's sermon. If you missed it, you will find a recording on our website (www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk). They are designed for both Home Group discussion and/or personal reflection. Don't necessarily try to cover all the questions and discussion topics in your group at one sitting. You may like to think about them later in your own time.

THE PARABLE OF...



Read Matthew 22:1-14

This is the eighth study in the series on The Kingdom of God. Time and time again Jesus told parables revealing something of what the Kingdom of God is like. And we need to know as much as we can about God's Kingdom because that is our home, it is where we belong, where our citizenship lies. And we need to know how to live as Kingdom people in a world with very different values and emphases. Each parable gives us another piece of the jigsaw and week by week the picture is building. This week we reflect on the joyous imagery and meaning of the Parable of the Wedding Feast.

Questions and pointers for discussion/reflection

1. Jesus seemed to like weddings (see John 2:1-11, Matthew 9:15). They were (and are) a great feature of Jewish community life. What do you like best about weddings?
2. With this in mind, take time to reflect on the imagery and meaning of the wedding supper of the lamb. See Revelation 19:6-9, 21:2,9.
3. The use of such imagery to express the intimate relationship between God and his people has its roots in the prophetic literature of the Old Testament. See Isaiah 54:5-7 and Hosea 2:19. In the New Testament, Paul refers to the church as the 'bride' of Christ, see Ephesians 5:32. What does this teach us about both our relationship with Jesus and the relationship between husband and wife. Do you find this imagery helpful? How?
4. In the parable, the King sent out invitations to his selected guests but they were too busy or too distracted to attend the feast (verse 5). Are you ever too busy/distracted to respond to God's gracious invitation to come and spend time with him? How can you overcome this?
5. The King then sent his servants out to gather people off the streets, both good and bad, to make up the party. Think about the bias of Jesus' ministry to people in need, the homeless, those on the margins of society. See Matthew 9:13 and 11:19. How can we participate in Jesus' ministry to such people in our community?
6. Consider the consequences of those who refused the King's invitation or did not avail themselves of the wedding clothes the host provided for his guests (verses 7,11-13). How can we best interpret this for those who refuse God's gracious invitation to come to his banquet? How can we help people to respond to God?
7. Revelation 6:11, 7:13-14 and 19:8 refer to the wedding clothes we are given when we come to Christ to cover our sin and impurity. We do not deserve these white robes. They represent the perfect righteousness of Christ with which we are clothed. When God looks at us, he sees Christ's perfection and not our sin. Are you trusting in Christ or your own righteousness? See Isaiah 64:6 for what God thinks of our righteousness.
8. What is your understanding of verse 14. Does God choose us?

How can we best think of this? It has been said that if we are chosen/elected, it is to service not to salvation. Do you agree?