

HOME GROUP QUESTIONS

SUNDAY 10 August 2025

BEING CHOSEN

Matthew 22 vv1-14

Icebreaker: “Church decline in England and Wales has not only stopped, but the Church is growing, as Gen Z leads an exciting turnaround in church attendance.” reports the Bible society <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/research/quiet-revival>. In what ways has this “Quiet Revival” come to your notice?

1. Called to Be Chosen

Mt 22:1 And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, **2** “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, **3** and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. **4** Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.’ **5** But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, **6** while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. **7** The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. **8** Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. **9** Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ **10** And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. **11** “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. **12** And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. **13** Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast 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.”

Q1: What is the context of this passage? What has just happened and who is Jesus addressing?

Q2: What does this wedding feast represent? (see v2) Who was first invited? Who might the servants (vv3,6) represent?

Q3: Paul suggests in Eph 2:4-8 that the calling to attend this feast depends on something additional. What might that be?

Q4: Other guests were invited in. Who is Jesus suggesting they might be? (see Eph 3:6).

v10: [The servants] “gathered all whom they found, both bad and good.”

Q5: What is the significance for us that “both bad and good” were invited?

2. The Mark of Being Chosen

In society weddings of that day, the host provided guests with wedding garments. That way, all guests became of similar status, simply enabling the wedding couple to stand out and avoiding social competition between guests.

Paul talks of “putting on” Jesus:

Rom 13:12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. 14 ... put on the Lord Jesus Christ,...
...and covering sins....

Rom 4:6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

7 “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

8 Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”

Q6: So what might these wedding garments represent? How might this relate to the New Covenant which Jesus was about to usher in?

Q7: In the parable, the wedding garments cover up the guests’ dirty and dusty street clothes. What might this represent for people invited into “the kingdom of heaven” (v2)?

v11 “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. 12 And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.

Q8: If all guests were provided with wedding garments by their hosts, what was the choice that had been made by this man? What does this choice represent in the context of your answer to Qs 6 and 7?

Q9: The king refers to the man as “friend”. Who might Jesus be suggesting this represents?

3. The Consequences of Deliberately Declining the Mark of the Chosen

Q10: What happened to the man without a wedding garment?

In secular society, people will justify themselves with comments such as:

- I’m not religious, but I’m a good person
- I haven’t done anything really bad. If there is a God and a heaven and hell, I haven’t done anything bad enough to justify going to hell.

Q11: Do you suppose the man without a wedding garment thought they were good enough without it? What does this mean for us?

1Jn 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

[These verses are worth learning as memory verses]

Q12: What might we conclude about what is needed for entry to the kingdom of heaven? *Important: the man who was thrown out had deliberately rejected the wedding garments and was effectively flaunting that decision. Rejection is different from not knowing or seeking the truth of God. In such cases, we hope on God's grace and mercy. (Acts 17:26-27; Rom 8:24-26)*

Q13: What is our responsibility to help our neighbour understand the nature of the choice they can make? How might we exploit the "Quiet Revival" to assist us in this?