

# Invited but Not Ready

---

## *Bible Study Handout*

Primary Text: Matthew 22:1–14

Theme: God's invitation is gracious, but it must be honored on God's terms.

## Lesson Overview

Jesus' parable of the wedding banquet challenges how we respond to God's call. While the invitation is freely given, the response requires readiness, humility, and transformation. This lesson explores three movements in the parable: ignored invitation, widened grace, and honored response.

## Key Lesson Highlights

### 1. The Invitation Can Be Ignored

The invited guests were not uninformed; they were distracted. Good responsibilities became spiritual excuses. Delay and indifference are themselves responses to God.

### 2. Grace Reaches Wider

When the original invitees refused, the invitation was extended to the streets and crossroads. Grace moved toward the overlooked and unexpected.

### 3. The Invitation Must Be Honored

The wedding garment symbolized righteousness provided by the king. Grace welcomes us as we are but does not leave us unchanged.

## Summary Teaching Points

- Being invited does not guarantee readiness.
- Inclusion is an act of grace, not entitlement.
- God provides what He requires.
- Salvation is free, but discipleship requires surrender.

## Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. Which group in the parable do you most identify with and why?
2. What are modern ways people ignore God's invitation without rejecting Him?
3. Why is distraction more dangerous to faith than rebellion?
4. What does "wearing the garment" look like in daily life?
5. How can the church reflect both wide grace and deep discipleship?