

# The Correspondent

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM

Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM

[www.collinsville-troycoc.org](http://www.collinsville-troycoc.org)

(618) 667-6708



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

Vol. 50 No. 04

1400 Troy Road Collinsville, Illinois 62234

January 23, 2022

## The Great Invitation

*-Renn Ferguson*

One of the most crucial parts of the wedding planning process is sending out the invitations. You want to make sure that all of your family and close friends along with all others that you know would like to receive one. This can mean that you spend several hours preparing and sending out hundreds of invitations. In Matthew 22:1-14 Jesus uses this illustration to describe the Kingdom. The master of the feast, being compared with Christ, sent his servants out to call on those who had been invited (v. 2-3a). When we look at the remainder of this parable we see two primary reactions to the invitation.

First, we see those who reject the invitation. Beginning in verse 3 we see, “and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. 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.”’ But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.” I believe this passage is describing the rejection of the gospel by the Jews. The gospel invitation was sent first to them, but they had no desire to accept it. Just so, there are many that reject the gospel today.

Second, we see those who accepted the invitation. Notice verses 8-10, “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ 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.” If the previous passage describes the gospel being sent to the Jews, this passage would describe the gospel being sent to the gentiles. They, unlike the Jews, readily accepted the invitation.

Yet, this is not where the parable ends. The last part of the parable records, ““But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. 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 weep and gnashing of teeth.’”

### Connect

CHALLENGE YOUTH  
CONFERENCE FEB. 25-27, 2022

[cyconline.com](http://cyconline.com)

