

The following is a dictation, so there will be many grammatical errors, such as punctuation and capitalization.

In the name of the father and of the son and of the holy spirit. Our lord christ's taught this parable in the temple during holy week. He was teaching before all the crowds that were there at that time. But we are told that he especially gave this parable in answer to the scribes and the Pharisees who act that time.

Even as he told this parable were plotting how they might arrest him and destroy him. And so, it is a parable of warning and like all parables, which a parables, a Greek word, which you could also translate Proverb, it is a piece of wisdom that requires application. That is we are to hear it and apply it to ourselves even as christ hoped that the scribes and Pharisees would hear it be warned and applied to themselves.

So we want to look at it in two main ways first, as warning for us as it is. But then also for those who hear it, as we hear it, and believe it and apply the warning to ourselves. Also, what comfort we find in this parable, It is a simple parable but with some surprising elements, a king gives a wedding banquet for his son.

And when he sends his servants to bring out those who are to bring in those who were invited at first, they simply do not come. They ignore the servants and so he sends them out again, and this time not only do they ignore him but others in fact, mistreat the servants and still others, even kill the servants.

The king is angry. He destroys their city and then his invitation goes out again to all those in the highways. And the byways on the main roads. Come both good and bad. The servants say, everyone invited come to the wedding hall and then the wedding hall is filled with guests and there is a man, the king finds not wearing the wedding garment we'll get to him in a minute but suffice it to say he's there but not for the right reasons.

So in this parable, we see that there are two ways to main ways to reject god's kingdom and grace. The first way is simply to outright reject the invitation and refuse to even come into the wedding hall. That is into relationship with god into his church. But notice here that not everyone who rejects the king's invitation does.

So in the same way some just ignore the servants while others mistreat them and still others, even kill them as happened to the prophets in the old testament, and this is how it goes. Most often though. I suspect. People. Reject god's invitation simply by ignoring it. And they show indifference to christianity as if it were something entirely irrelevant to their life.

They care more about their farm or their business. It's not that these folks, necessarily hate Christianity in an outward way. They're not going around punching christians in the face or anything like that. They just don't have time for it. You know. They don't want to be inconvenienced by it.

They are like those in the parable who paid no attention and went off. Now, i would say. That this is, especially common in rural america, right? Where people vote conservative. They stand for god and country. But many of them when it comes to actually following christ and having a relationship with him, Well.

You see, they just don't have time for all that bible. And church stuff. They forget. That this could be the very day that they die. And that god will require from them an account for their soul. They forget that the most practical daily useful thing of all is to know that when you die you will not die but be raised and live forever.

Nothing is so practical as the forgiveness of sins and a clean conscience before god. But they don't see it and so, they ignore it. And so this parable teaches us that this kind of paying no attention. Is not new, it's not a neutral thing, it too is a rejection of the king's invitation just as those who mistreated the king's servants and even killed them.

The bible knows only two categories, those who are in christ and those who are outside the wedding hall in hell and weeping and gnashing of teeth. There's no third middle. That's just sort of neutral for people that just kind of are on the fence. It's light or dark. I would say that, for, Christians, this sort of Ambivalence.

In difference, not caring to even pay attention to the king's invitation. This is in some ways for us, the most discouraging thing of all to see isn't it. I mean, I suppose. Just on the face of it. None of us wants to face the other kind of rejection physical, violence, or mistreatment or anger, outrage maybe.

None of us wants to invite someone to church and then have them punch us in the nose or yell at us for being bigots or something like that. But at least if that did happen, you would know where the lines are. It would be very clear. But in this sort of, would they just ignore you?

Or pretend like it's something not worthwhile. Well, that's lines are a little harder to see there. And frankly, it's quite discouraging. It can make you feel alone. As if no one else around you is actually taking what jesus says, seriously of course, that's not true, that's never true. You're never alone, you belong to the body of christ, but that's what being surrounded by.

A culture of indifference towards god's word does to us, it just makes us feel alone. The second way. To reject god's kingdom. Is to accept the invitation. Um, in an outward way and, and come into the wedding hall. But to come on your own terms, that is to say.

In pride and works righteousness and not in humility. And faith. This is what happens with the man whom the king finds in the wedding hall at the feast. But he has refused to wear the wedding garment when he is questioned about it. He he remains silent defiantly. Silent doesn't even apologize.

Now. We don't really know. This is kind of confusing. We don't really know a lot about first century wedding. Garment customs. Um, and anyone who says they do is probably making something up, but The point is clear enough, right? The man is there but he's there on his own terms and he stands apart from all the other guests and he stands apart even from the king and has greatly offended them him.

He was there physically. But he was not there relationally, he was not there with faith in christ, he was there on his own terms. And not on the kings terms. Now we do this sort of thing, too. We do this for dapple in it or attempted to it anytime that we presume that we simply belong in god's kingdom because of course we do.

And our parents did and their parents did obviously god owes us Or if we accept the bible or are willing to hear it or learn it or hear it. Preached but only in so far as i agree with it or it entertains me or it confirms what. I already believe this sort of thing.

Elevating our ways of thinking Above what god says. But the prophet isaiah just told us god's ways our higher than our ways and his thoughts higher than ours, we need to listen to him. And not tell god when he has got it wrong. And of course, We do this.

Try to be in the wedding hall on our own terms. When we forget that, God's kingdom is the kingdom of grace. None of us belongs here. All of us are only here by grace. Where we, we're tempted to do this. If we refuse repentance If we refuse grace. If we forget that all, it's prepared and not by us.

It is all done. For you. What did christ say in the cross? It is finished. The good and the bad alike are invited and brought in the good because they have not been good enough. The bad because they have not been so bad that christ's blood cannot atone for all their sins.

The robe of rice crisis of christ righteousness. Covers you And is given to you as a gift. Both kinds of rejection whether We reject the invitation outright or try to come on our own terms both and in judgment, which will surely come And so, we ought to apply these warning to ourselves and ask ourselves in what ways am i tempted or

dabbling in or rejecting god's invitation?

We're coming, but insisting on coming. On my own terms, instead of hearing what god says, So far. For the warnings. But for those who hear the warnings, And who believe in christ, there is also great comfort in this parable. It's not all warning and i would have you just notice two things that are obvious, but is it to overlook the first?

Is that the wedding hall despite everything is full Second that the robe, the wedding carmen is given for free. You see? Um, this parable has so much rejection in it. And yet despite it all the wedding hall. What does it say was filled with guests? Guess who were invited and came by grace alone.

I don't need to tell you. That we live in a time where we see widespread and increasing rejection of christianity. Both the silent kind that's just sort of indifferent. And also, The loud and angry kind. But we should not lose sight of this. The wedding hall will be filled.

When john in revelation sees a picture of the church on the last day, he doesn't just see a few people. He sees a multitude that no one could number or count from every nation tribe and language. This parable shows us that god's plan to have guests who will honor and worship the sun will not be thwarted or set aside.

Yes, there will always always be those who reject and yet, god's gracious. Invitation continues to go out more and more and more. All who can be found and invited will be, and god's plan will not be nullified. There are no restrictions on this invitation to come and believe and follow god's son.

It is for jews and Gentiles for those near. And for those far for the good and the bad, for those who are born in the church. And those who have never stepped foot, inside of one, the invitation goes out to all and all will be sought and called to the feast who god, has plans to bring to faith, and his plan will not be stopped.

And this is comforting news as you go about your christian task of witnessing to jesus and inviting others to A relationship with christ and his church. I see it very often in terms of evangelism, we think in terms of we have a product called jesus that we need to sell to people and we just want, you know, the most people to buy it that we can.

But that's not how the bible would have us view evangelism that view is entirely human it. It's as if there is no god, who is behind it all or who even has a plan instead, i would rather have you think of evangelism more along the lines of an Easter egg hunt with small

children.

So, Um, This is probably rings true for you. So when our our first was really young, two years old, we did Easter egg hunts, you know, in the backyard or whatever and what do you do as parents, you go out there and you set some eggs around. And if you're smart, you count them right before you set them all out.

So you know how many are out there? And some of them you put like, on the porch, the real obvious, they're just sitting there. And then some of them are like behind a tree or in a bush. They're a little harder and your kid goes out and finds the Easter egg huntsman say, she's only found like 16 out of 20 then what do you do?

Oh, you say Who's that behind the tree over there? Or i wonder if there's anything in the bush and then they go out and then they find those ones. And all of them are found. This is evangelism god, our heavenly father has a plan and he knows well how to call people to faith.

In fact, he planned how he would call and bring you to faith from before the foundation of the world before, you were even born, the bible, says he chose us in christ jesus. It's like an Easter egg hunt and some of us are probably easy to find. We're like the Easter eggs on the porch, we were born in the church.

Heard the gospel growing up. Believed it, or baptized and saved. And we're, you know, we're real obvious others of us. Come to faith later in life. Maybe a little harder to find tuck behind a tree in a bush. God pricks our conscience from time to time right? Oh maybe i should invite so and so to church and in the process of time Despite all our blundering and waddling about all of god's.

Elect are called invited and brought to faith. You see? Although, the task is urgent. And we are to participate. And we are to witness. And invite and persuade. It is not. A task that we have to worry, will blunder it all up and so ruin. God's plan. No one is going to go to hell because you didn't say something quite right.

And this is quite freeing. I mean, just look at the parable. It's so full of rejection, even to the point where they are killing god's servants. And yet his plan to have the wedding hall filled with guests. Is still completed. If direct evil can't stop god's plan. Then surely my incompetence.

And yours is not going to stop it either. And so, you're set free from worry to witness and fight and pray. And finally, we are comforted in all of these things. When we look at ourselves and our own failures, our sins, the weakness of our faith in the face of temptation, where comforted for all these things.

When we see that, all those who enter the wedding hall are dressed by the king, We do not have to stand before god in the filthy rags of our own righteousness, which is no righteousness at all. But the king himself provides wedding garments. He gives us christ, the righteousness of jesus, the covers all our sins, the righteousness of jesus, the dresses us pure and white and through which god looks at you, and says, you are my beloved child, and i'm happy with you.

And well, pleased, the righteousness of jesus that was poured on us in. Holy baptism that is preached into our ears, and which we receive even in his body and blood, whether you have been good or bad, the garment of christ righteousness is for you a garment, which enables you to hear the gospel but believe in christ, which none of us would even do without it.

Pray and give thanks be sanctified in love and hope and have patience and comfort under cross and trial. And although all of this is very weaken us yet, we hunger and thirst after righteousness and find it again and again and For free in christ jesus. Dear friends. Don't you see?

Everything is ready. Calm to the wedding feast. Come soon. Lord, jesus. Amen. The peace of god. With surpasses all understanding. Now, keep your hearts and minds in christ. Jesus. Amen.