

For many are called, but few are chosen.

Matt 13:10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables ?"  
11 And He answered and said to them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. 12 "For whoever has, to him shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. 13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables ; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

The plan of salvation – the death, burial and resurrection of the Son of God – was not apparent to any man before Jesus died on the cross – but most especially not to the Jewish religious leaders.

The message of God came only to those who diligently sought after God.

The disciples knew that the message of Jesus was veiled to the religious leaders of that day – mainly because they thought they knew God and yet they were unwilling to hear his Son.

A parable is an easily understood illustration from which a lesson can be gained if you search for it.

Matt 22:1 And Jesus answered and spoke to them again in parables, saying, 2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king, who gave a wedding feast for his son. 3 "And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come.

4 "Again he sent out other slaves saying, "Tell those who have been invited," Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast. "' 5 "But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business,

6 and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them. 7 "But the king was enraged and sent his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and set their city on fire. 8 "Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 'Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.' 10 "And those slaves went out into the streets, and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests.

11 "But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw there a man not dressed in wedding clothes, 12 and he said to him,' Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' And he was speechless. 13 "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."

Of what does the illustration consist?

Someone very important throws a big party.

The invited guests decide they have other priorities and will not come.

Some of the invited guests were really nasty to the messengers.

Because of the dishonor heaped upon the king, the king punishes the invited guests. New guests, commonly thought to be the unworthy are then invited.

One of the guests, coming in socially unacceptable clothing, dishonors the king. That guest too, is punished.

In hindsight, what players may be assigned to  
real folks.

The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a  
king, who gave a wedding feast for his son.

God is the King and he invites the Jews,  
scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees to the feast.

Matt 23:9 And do not call anyone on earth  
your father; for One is your Father, He who is  
in heaven.

Remember the kingdom of Heaven and the church are the same on Earth.

Col 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. ... 13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

This parable illustrates what will happen in the  
church!

You might say the parables are prophecies!  
*The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a  
king,*

The Jews, scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees  
don't want to hear the messengers – Jesus  
and John the Baptist and the apostles.

Matt 17:12 but I say to you, that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands. " 13 Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.

John 15:20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

Those Jews who reject Jesus will be punished throughout eternity.

Matt 25:41 Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

The Gentiles will be invited to the kingdom.

Acts 10:28 And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean. 29 "That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. And so I ask for what reason you have sent for me."

Some of the Gentiles will not show honor to  
the King.

Rom 10:16 However, they did not all heed  
the glad tidings; for Isaiah says, " Lord, who  
has believed our report? " 17 So faith comes  
from hearing, and hearing by the word of  
Christ. 18 But I say, surely they have never  
heard, have they? Indeed they have; "Their  
voice has gone out into all the earth, And their  
words to the ends of the world."

They too will be punished.

2 Thess 1:6 ... it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power

Just because God invites everyone doesn't mean that they will honor him by coming, appropriately dressed for the occasion, to the marriage of the lamb.

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them,

All things are ready, come to the feast.

Your Lord in heaven has invited you.

But you need to be dressed correctly.

Rev 7:14 I said to him, "My lord, you know."

And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

1Co 6:9-11 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, (10) nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. (11) Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Won't you wash your robe and made it white in  
the blood of the Lamb.

Act 22:16 And now what are you waiting for?  
Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away,  
calling on his name.'