



## GATHERING IN THE WORD OF GOD

### HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Matthew 22:1-14 (VOICE Bible)

22 Jesus went on speaking in parables.

**Jesus:** <sup>2</sup> The kingdom of heaven is like a king whose son was getting married. The king organized a great feast, *a huge wedding banquet.* <sup>3</sup> *He invited everyone he knew. The day of the wedding arrived, and the king sent his servants into town to track down his guests—but when the servants approached them with the king’s message, they refused to come.* <sup>4</sup> So the king sent out another batch of servants.

**King:** Tell those people I’ve invited to come to the wedding banquet! *Tell them I have prepared a great feast! Everything is ready! The oxen and fattened cattle have all been butchered, the wine is decanted, and the table is laid out just so.*

<sup>5</sup> *And off the servants went, and they carried the king’s message to the errant guests—who still paid not a whit of attention. One guest headed into his field to work; another sat at his desk to attend to his accounts.* <sup>6</sup> The rest of the guests actually turned on the servants, brutalizing them and killing them. <sup>7</sup> *When he learned of this, the king was furious. He sent his army to kill the murderers and burn their towns.* <sup>8</sup> *But there was, of course, still a wedding to celebrate.*

**King (to his remaining servants):** The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited didn’t rise to the occasion.

<sup>9</sup> So go into the streets and invite anyone you see; invite everyone you meet.

<sup>10</sup> And the servants did just that—they went into the streets and invited everyone they met, *rich and poor, good and bad, high and low, sick and well*. Everyone who was invited came, and the wedding hall practically burst with guests.

<sup>11</sup> The king looked around the wedding party *with glee*, but he spotted one man who was not dressed *appropriately*. *In fact, he was dressed rather plainly*, in clothes not at all fitting for a fine nuptial feast.

**King:** <sup>12</sup> Kind sir, how did you get in here without a proper suit of wedding clothes?

The man was speechless. *He had been invited in off the street, after all!* <sup>13</sup> *Getting no response*, the king told his servants,

**King:** Tie him up, and throw him out into the outer darkness, where there is weeping and grinding of teeth.

<sup>14</sup> For many are invited, but few are chosen.

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## **DOING THE WORD OF GOD**

What is the Word of God for us this morning?

### **1.ONE: LET GOD BE GOD!**

**2.TWO: OUR GOD IS A GOD OF EXPANSIVE LOVE AND RADICAL INCLUSIVENESS—SO FOLLOW GOD’S EXAMPLE TO OTHERS!**

**3.THREE: GOD OFFERS IN JESUS TO ALL THE FREE INVITATION TO SIT AT THE KING’S TABLE GRACE!**

**SENDING IN THE WORD OF GOD**



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