Parables on Rejecting the Son of God  
Matthew 21:33-22:14

Introduction:
A. Two parables with one objective - Rebuke to Jews for rejecting Jesus.
   1. First pictures God as a landowner leasing out his land.
   2. Second pictures God as a king arranging his son's wedding.
B. Two parables emphasize need to accept Jesus as the Christ.

Discussion:
I. The Wicked Vinedressers and Israel's History. (21:33-46)
A. The Vineyard in parable = God's kingdom (O.T. and N.T.)
B. The characters in the parable.
   1. The Landowner = God
   2. The Vinedressers = Jewish Leadership in history
   3. The servants sent = Prophets in history
   4. The son = Christ.
C. The Actions of the characters.
   1. The Landowner (God)
      b. Repeated efforts to receive fruit. (vs. 35-37).
      c. Gave kingdom to another nation. (v. 41-43).
   2. The Vinedressers.
      a. Persistent rebellion. (cf. Mt. 23:28-31; Acts 7:51)
      b. Persecution of servants: beating (Jer. 37:15); killing (Jer.26:20-23); stoning (2 Chron. 24:20,21)

II. The King's Son's Wedding and Israel's Rejection.
A. The marriage (with festivities) = The Son's day to be honored.
B. The characters in this parable.
   1. King = God, the Father.
   2. Son = Jesus Christ
   3. Servants = God's messengers of that day (after things ready).
   5. Those latter invited. = Gentiles
   6. Man without wedding garment = one accepting invitation but refuses to abide by rules.
C. The Actions of the characters.
   1. King (God)
      a. Elaborate preparations (v. 4).
      b. Called "invited guests" (vs. 3-6)
      c. Called "uninvited guests". (vs. 9-10)
      d. Destroyed murderers and burned city. (v. 7)
      e. Cast one into outer darkness. (v. 13).
   2. First invited guests.
      a. Some made light of it. (v. 5) - business as usual.
      b. Some reacted violently. (v. 6)
      a. Filled the hall.
      b. One refused to wear wedding garment (provided by host).
D. The many called and the few chosen.
   1. Many (all - Jew and Gentile) have now been called or invited.
   2. Few (those to accept call and abide by rules) are chosen.

Conclusion:
A. How would we have treated the Lord's prophets?
B. How have we responded to the Lord's invitation?
C. Do we have on garment?