Three Disastrous Attitudes Toward the Kingdom of God
Matt. 22:1-14

Introduction:
A. Parable’s two main points.
   1. God’s preparation of the kingdom of God. (v. 4)
      a. From Adam to Jesus.
      b. All of man’s spiritual needs.
   2. God’s wrath upon those who reject the kingdom (v. 7, 13).
B. Parable’s primary application.
   1. To Israel’s rejection of the kingdom — Jerusalem destroyed (v. 7).
   2. To Gentile’s invitation after Israel’s rejection. (vv. 8-10).
C. Parable illustrates three disastrous attitudes toward the kingdom of God.

Discussion:
I. A Lighthearted Attitude (v. 5).
   A. In making light of the invitation (the gospel) these were disrespectful of:
      1. The King and His Son.
      2. The servants and their message.
      3. The provisions made for them.
   B. Today’s great problem: God’s word is taken too lightly.
      3. About duties as Christians.
         a. Assembling (Heb. 10:25)
         b. Studying (Hos. 6:4; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:15)
      4. About godly living (Tit. 2:11,12).
         a. Modesty - chastity (1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Pet. 3:2)
         b. Marriage - divorce. (Matt. 19:9)
   C. Three common ways of making light of it:
      1. Give no attention to it at all.
      2. Ignore it and go about their business. (v. 5; cf. Jas. 1:23, 24).
      3. Pass it off as a joke.

II. A “Cruel-hearted” Attitude (v. 6).
   A. These didn’t like message, so killed messengers.
      1. Stephen (Acts 7)
      2. James (Acts 12:2, 3)
   B. People can become cruel when way of life is threatened.
      2. Jews felt threatened.
      4. Watered down gospel no threat, so no persecution.
   C. Christians kind-lighthearted to cruel-lighthearted. (Matt. 5:44)

III. A Halfhearted Attitude (vv. 11-12).
   A. This man accepted invitation, but not responsibility.
   B. Half-lighthearted attitude still plagues kingdom.
      1. Want to be Christian, without living as Christian.
      2. Want to blessings of kingdom, without responsibilities.

Conclusion:
A. Will have to give an account for our attitudes toward God, his word, and his kingdom.
B. Need to realize consequences of wrong attitude (v. 13).