

# MATTHEW 22 vs 1

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<sup>1</sup> **And Jesus answered** / that phrase means He sized up the situation, the details being in the previous chapter... and now He's going to respond.

**He spoke to them again by parables** / a familiar, earthy lesson of life containing a heavenly truth,

**and said** / remember... this is His 3<sup>rd</sup> parable in a row... and Jesus is playing hard-ball,

<sup>2</sup> **The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king, who made a marriage for his son** / which truly sounds like an opportunity of great joy and rejoicing, doesn't it?

<sup>3</sup> **And sent forth his servants to invite those who were already invited to the wedding: but they would not come** / these seeming close friends and colleagues and companions to the king, were unwilling to come, stupid people.

<sup>4</sup> **Again, he sent forth other servants saying, Invite those who are invited already** / a second time, perhaps the first group had inadequately presented the good news; so the joyous invitation went out again; this time, in greater detail,

**Behold** / pay attention, **I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fattened cows are killed, and everything is ready: come to the marriage.**

<sup>5</sup> **But they made light of it** / they scoffed at the second group of messengers sent by their king,

**and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his business** / a farmer in the king's kingdom went to check on his corn, that's important! and someone had to check out all his fabulous dust collecting crap on his shelves! Lots of vapid-headed thinking.

Next, some say verses 6 and 7 seem to be a copyist's insertion; and don't appear in some old manuscripts; but let's add them anyway... since the good king is quite skillful: and here we learn he's able to multitask.

<sup>6</sup> **and the rest seized his servants, and mistreated them, and killed them** / apparently, a sizeable progressive group of the enemy within... instead of rejoicing with the king, decided to abuse the king's messengers, and things got out of control, and some of them ended up dead. But the king is a good king, and the safety of His kingdom is his concern. And we read...

<sup>7</sup> **But when the king heard, he was angry, and sent his armies, and destroyed those murderers and burned up their city** / hearing the news, the good king became a little pissed off; obviously, the good king not only took care of any rebellious foreigners, but also any domestic dissenters in his peaceable kingdom.



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**<sup>8</sup> Then he said to his servants, The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy /** the good king can multitask without blinking.

**<sup>9</sup> So now, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the marriage /** go to the major streets and thoroughfares, the king wants his servants to inspect under the bridges, shake the trees, and check behind the bushes; he wants a full house attending his son's marriage festival. Luke has a similar parable that reads: **compel them to come...** just in case, someone might think they are not invited!

**<sup>10</sup> So those servants went into the highways, and gathered together as many as they found, both bad and good, and the wedding was filled with guests /** refined or ruffian, whoever wanted to come was invited!

**<sup>11</sup> Now when the king came in to see the guests /** I bet he had the biggest grin on his face... well until, **he saw a person who was not dressed in a wedding garment /** we don't know if it was a man or woman; those who came in a hurry would have been supplied with robes given them by the servants:

**<sup>12</sup> and he said to that one, hey you; how did you come in here without a wedding garment? /** did you notice, it was no sacrifice for you to exchange your stinking clothes, and put on a festive garment that I provided for each guest. My son's wedding is a joyous event, and all the guests need not be ashamed; and the king said, I see you want to sit clinging to your filthy rags... but not at my son's wedding, and not in my kingdom.

**And the person was speechless /** as if muzzled... uhh!

**<sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth /** it's an awful place.

**<sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen /** the call goes to many; those who respond are selected.

**STRIKE THREE!** You're out! The game's over!

**<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went, and took counsel how they might entangle Him /** how they might deceptively entrap Jesus – which didn't take those experts long.

**<sup>16</sup> And they sent their disciples to Him with the Herodians /** ecclesiastical rulers... plus Roman secular powers – both groups are still around today; 2 groups... that never liked each other and they came

**saying, Master /** hey Einstein! **we know you are truthful, and teach the way of God in truth, /** they sound like smarmy church leaders and pompous politicians, don't they,

**and you defer to no one: for you are not partial to any /** it just sounds like that historic pretentious papal flattery, doesn't it? while they get ready to light the match and burn them at the stake!

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<sup>17</sup> **So tell us, Einstein! What do you think? Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar? or no?** they were asking about giving the poll-tax, Yes, or no?

<sup>18</sup> **But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, Why are you testing Me?**

**You hypocrites!** / those who reveal what is not, while they conceal what is; e who wear a frown while smiling inside, or a smile while really frowning;.



<sup>19</sup> **Show Me the tribute money.**

**And they brought a denarion to Him** / a coin representing a day's wage; and after staring down everyone in this two-faced bunch of thugs and criminals,

<sup>20</sup> **and He asked them,**

**Whose image and inscription is this?** / and like inspector Clouseau or Colombo, did Jesus grimace? Did He want to laugh? Did He start twisting this coin around..., holding it up to the sunlight? I'd probably say, Whose is this dumb-ass image... and scribbling? we can well imagine what Jesus wanted to say!



<sup>21</sup> **They said, Caesar's.**

**Then He said to them: So, give to Caesar, the things of Caesar; and to God, the things of God** / probably flicking the coin back at them.

<sup>22</sup> **When they heard these words they marveled** / Jesus silenced them, and scratching their vacant heads, **left Him and went their way** defeated, pouting, nursing their wounds; while plotting to kill Jesus.

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