

A note from Kathy

Many people struggle with trying to find truth. Often it is because they are not searching where truth can be found. Your time in God's word is a wise investment. Come to His word with a humble heart, prepared to hear from him. You will not be disappointed.

Observation

1. Read this chapter at least twice before beginning this study guide. There are several important truths we do not want to miss. The chapter begins with Jesus teaching another parable. What is the familiar phrase we have seen several times in our study of Matthew?
2. Fill in the facts found in this parable.
 - a. The main character -
 - b. Others mentioned -
 - c. The event -
3. What was the response to the king's servants?
 - a. verse 3 -
 - b. verse 5 -
 - c. verse 6 -
4. What was the king's response? (Verses 7-9)
5. In order to understand verses 11-13, we must ask ourselves what was the purpose of this banquet? Remember, this is a parable; what is the purpose of a parable?
6. It was the custom of the day for the host to provide garments for his guests. What was the problem in verses 11-13?
7. In verses 15-22, we see the Pharisees leaving, but they sent their disciples and the Herodians (*Jews who supported the Roman-backed Herodian rulers*) to continue trying to trip up Jesus with their questions. They referred to Jesus as "Teacher" and called him

a man of integrity, but did they really mean what they were saying? Flattery was simply the bait they attempted to use as they set their trap for Jesus. Notice how Jesus answered their question. What did Jesus know that others may not have known?

8. Jesus pointed to a coin and asked them whose image and likeness was on it. He then instructed them to give to Caesar what was Caesar's and to God what belonged to God. What was Jesus referring to here? (Read Genesis 1:26-27)
9. Verse 23 says "the same day" Sadducees came with a question concerning the resurrection of the dead. Their question was a strange one for many reasons, but what is the main reason? (Read Matthew 22:23 and Acts 23:8)
10. Jesus used their question as a teaching moment for the crowd and the Sadducees. He pointed out two areas where they were uninformed. What were the two areas?
11. What effect did Jesus' teaching have on the Sadducees?
12. The Pharisees returned with more questions. They asked a question that was highly debated among the Jewish leaders of their day. Even though their motive was wrong, I can almost imagine Jesus thinking, finally a good question. What was his two-part answer?
 - 1.
 - 2.
13. Now Jesus turned the tables on the Pharisees, Sadducees, and the Herodians and asked them a question. What was the question?

(Christ in the Greek – *Christos* – means the Messiah, the Anointed One)

14. This question was beyond what they were able or wanted to answer. What decision did they make at this point?

Application

1. In the parable in Matthew 22:1-14, who do you believe the characters represent?
 - a. The king -
 - b. The king's son -
 - c. The servants they would not listen to and eventually killed -

- d. Those invited originally -
 - e. Those the king opened the invitation to include -
 - f. The guest not found in wedding garments -
2. Scholars have debated for years what is meant by “wedding garments.” What do you believe these garments represented? When the king arrived at the banquet, in verses 11-14 he found a man who was not properly dressed. Use the verses below to help you write out what you believe he was missing. Consider the phrase “imputed righteousness.” What does it mean to you?

Isaiah 61:10 - “I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness...”

1 Corinthians 15:54 - “When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality...”

Galatians 3:26-27 - “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

Philippians 3:8-9 – “What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.”

3. The man was speechless when he was asked about his garment. Why do you believe he could say nothing? Why could he offer no excuse?
4. Read Revelation 22:17. The Holy Spirit of God and the Church both extend the invitation to all men, women, and children to come to Jesus, to experience the joy of a true relationship with him, to enjoy the peace that comes to those who are his. Have you experienced the gift of salvation?
5. Jesus shared three transforming truths in this chapter. Put these truths in your own words.
- a. Verse 29 -
 - b. Verses 37-40 -
 - c. Verse 42 -

6. Have you spent any time this week considering whose image and likeness you bare? To whom are you giving your time, talent and treasure?
7. Are there people you know who, like the Sadducees, lack knowledge of the Scriptures and thus believe in error? Perhaps they have not experienced the power of God, and so they are unsure it really exists the way others describe it. How can we be of help to people like this?
8. Can you think of ways to display the truth of Matthew 22:37-40? What will it look like in your relationships with others?
9. Write a personalized sentence for each part of 1 Cor. 13:4-8 as it clarifies Matthew 22:39.

Love is patient	
love is kind	
It does not envy	
It does not boast	
It is not proud	
It is not rude	
It is not self-seeking	
It is not easily angered	
It keeps no record of wrongs	
Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth	
It always protects	
always trusts	
always hopes	
always perseveres	
Love never fails	

10. Did one of the above statements from 1 Cor. 13:4-8 stand out to you? Place a star beside it.