

Home Group Study Material for w/c 14th November 2011
RSVP – Matthew 22:1-14

Suggested questions for discussion – as usual please modify them as appropriate for your group

This is not a comfortable passage! The aim of the study is to understand how important it is to respond to God's heavenly invitation. Although we're all invited, we need to understand that we don't gain entry to the party of all parties by default. To make sure of our entry we need to do two things.

1. *'Intro' question:* What would you wear to a special party?
2. Lightly skim read Matthew chapters 21 to 25 (preferably before the HG meeting!). These contain the teaching that Jesus did in the temple in the final few days before his crucifixion. Note down all the interactions and parables that involve subjects like heaven, the kingdom of God, the end times, and judgment. What can we learn from this? Why is it significant that Jesus is focussing on these subjects, so close to his death?

Please read Matthew 22:1-14

3. In verses 3 to 6 the king tries to get "those who had been invited" to his wedding banquet but various excuses are given. What prevents people today from responding to the invitation of the Gospel? What are the equivalents of the "fields" or "business" that get in the way?
4. *"According to a major survey... nearly seven in ten said that they were Christian ...even if they never go to church"*
What makes people think that they are Christians even if they never go to church? What does make someone a Christian?
5. What do people need to do to make sure that they will be present at the greatest party of all time?
6. Share with each other what it was that convinced you to accept the king's invitation and become a Christian. If it worked for you, could you use it to encourage non-believers to come to the party?
7. Is the king being fair in verse 13 when he throws out the man without wedding clothes? Why or why not?
8. *"For many are invited, but few are chosen." (v14)*
The plain teaching of Jesus' parable is that although all are invited, not everyone will be there. Discuss how you feel about this? Does it make sense to you?
9. Is there a spiritual truth in this uncomfortable passage that is especially significant for you? Explain why it is important for you.

10. In the sermon I said: “Who are you expecting to take the good news to your friends and family, if it isn’t you?”

The king sends out his servants to invite guests to his heavenly wedding banquet. Are you willing to be used in this way? Who specifically might God be wanting you to invite? Think carefully about this and (if you are willing) ask other members of the group to support you in prayer as you try to act on this.

Issued by Jeremy Bamber
13/11/11