



Home Group study: week beginning 12th February 2023

TITLE: Parables – stories to live by: Wedding Banquet

PASSAGE: Matthew 22:1-14

Icebreaker

What is your favourite article of clothing? Why?

Discovery

Jesus told many parables, and often they were about simple things in ordinary people's lives. Today's includes a startling interaction between 2 people over a set of clothes.

Why did Jesus use parables? And why are they sometimes so odd? (NB - they were stories, designed to 'shock slowly', so didn't have to make complete sense immediately).

Read Matt 22:1-14 - the parable of the Wedding Banquet.

Who was it aimed at?

What is the most weird / startling thing in it? Discuss. (Those who were at Jubilee on Sunday might be able to help explain some of the odd bits in it. The NIV study bible is a help too.)

Read the Luke version of the same (?) parable. Is it really the same? Discuss. As above people who were at church might be able to point out differences...

Why do you think verses 11-14 are there? What do they mean?

Application

Does it matter how Christians dress when we go to church, when we're out and about?

What other sorts of 'clothing' do Christians wear? (Note: We are clothed with Christ, and wear robes of righteousness - where does it say these?)

Read Colossians 3:12-14. How do we put on these clothes?

Pray for:

- God's help to put them on;

- revelation of God's magnificence and his will - aiming to encourage a holy fear of God, faith, trust, hope, a love for the Word, a passion for outreach (witness), service, perseverance;
- new believers to receive a revelation of God and his purpose for them;
- not-yet believers to receive a revelation of their need for a saviour, God's splendour, hell's awfulness, the Word's truth and relevance, and thus to believe and be saved.