

## Thy Kingdom Come: A Banquet with the King

### Reflect

1. Have you ever been *really* thirsty or hungry? What does it feel like? In that position, could you imagine paying a lot of money for something to drink or eat?
2. Think of a time when you were in a position of need financially. How does it feel? What if you had the opportunity to have all debts forgiven and all needs met?
3. How do we satisfy the thirstiness and neediness of our souls in this world? Name one way besides God that you often seek satisfaction, peace, or fulfillment.

### Read Your Bible

- Isaiah 55:1-3
- Matthew 22:1-14

### Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. According to Isaiah 55:1-3, what is the cost of God's faithful love?
2. What else seems important in this passage?
3. Summarize Matthew 22:1-14. Is anything striking or confusing?
4. Note who gets into the party. Who does not? Who is the party for? What's the occasion?
5. This is a hard story! But it is purposeful. Jesus found that many who were religious rejected Him, and many who had lived careless lives were willing to be saved. Consider your own place in the story. Have you rejected God's invitation or hurried to the party? Do you know why you are here?
6. "Many are invited, but few are chosen." As a follower of Jesus, what's my job? To "invite" to the party or "choose" who comes?

### Conclusion

The Bible goes to great lengths to make clear that salvation is a free gift. But the human heart so freely rejects the Giver. We live this reality, so, sometimes we need a good story to put things back in perspective! This parable of the kingdom is a depiction of a very real history, as the leaders of God's people rejected the Word of God and then Christ Himself. These self-honored guests lost their places at the table and the message of invitation went out instead to "street corners" and "anyone you find." So, the kingdom got filled with the willing, not those who thought they were deserving! We are meant to find ourselves in this story: undeserving of an invitation, yet in awe of our place of honor at the wedding! If we looked to our right or left, we'd find more of the same. None of the guests has "paid" for their seat. So, how do we embrace the gift? First, embrace the Giver. Second, invite others freely! "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat... I will make an everlasting covenant with you."

### **Pray**

Lord Jesus, we want to be at that wedding banquet! Give us a readiness of heart to put You before businesses, obligations, and plans. Give us a willingness of soul to hear Your Word and apply it to our lives. Dress us in Your faithfulness and awe. Keep us feasting at Your table and drinking from Your cup until the day when we feast in person with You, our King. In Your holy name. Amen.