

The Wedding Feast

The Wedding Feast	1
Scene Summary	1
Scripture	1
Players	2
Special Props	2
Script – The Wedding Feast	3
Supplemental Information.....	5

Scene Summary

“The Wedding Feast” is a play that depicts the parable concerning the Kingdom of Heaven. The scenes include the king preparing for a wedding banquet...servants are sent to invite the guests...the guests make excuses and do not come...the king is angry and invites “other” guests...the king comes to the banquet and sees someone not wearing wedding clothes then orders this person thrown outside.

Scripture

(Mat 22:1-14 NIV) Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: {2} "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. {3} He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. {4} "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' {5} "But they paid no attention and went off--one to his field, another to his business. {6} The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. {7} The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. {8} "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. {9} Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' {10} So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. {11} "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. {12} 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. {13} "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' {14} "For many are invited, but few are chosen."

(Luke 14:16-24 NIV) Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. {17} At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' {18} "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' {19} "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' {20} "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' {21} "The servant came

back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' {22} "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' {23} "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. {24} I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

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Players

- **Narrator** – The play's "catechist" or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Jesus** – God's One and Only Son.
- **King** – Preparing a wedding banquet for his son.
- **Servant 1, 2, 3**– The king's servants who invite people to the wedding.
- **Person 1, 2, 3, 4** – More people can be added as needed.
- **Guests** – People that come from the streets and alleys of the town.

Special Props

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.
- Person 4 should have black clothing; everyone else should be colorfully dressed.

Script – The Wedding Feast

Narrator: Jesus told many stories about the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus: The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.

King: [clap his hands, calling his servants...the servants come and kneel before him] The wedding banquet for my son is ready. The palace is decorated. The food has been prepared. Everything is ready. Now I want you to go and tell my guest that have been invited that the banquet is ready and it is time for them to come.

[servants leave]

Narrator: The king's servants went to tell the guests that the King's banquet is ready.

Servant 1: [to Person 1] The King's banquet is ready, it is time to come.

Person 1: I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.

Servant 2: [to Person 2] The King's banquet is ready, now is the time to come.

Person 2: I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

Servant 3: [to Person 3] Come to the King's banquet, everything is ready.

Person 3: I just got married, so I can't come.

Narrator: The servants returned to the King and told him what the people had said.

King: [angry] 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.

[servants leave, then come back with others]

Servant 1: [to the king] Sir, what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.

King: [still angry] Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.

[servants leave again, then come back with more people]

Narrator: So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

King: [to himself] I want to go and see my new guests.

Narrator: When the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.

King: [to the person] Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?

Person 4: [moves shoulders and shakes head]

King: [to his servants] Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Jesus: For many are invited, but few are chosen.

The End

Supplemental Information

For your young students telling the story is most important. The story itself will, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, communicate truth to your students.

A parable is a story that contains a spiritual meaning, an allegory or coded message. Jesus told us that this parable of “The Wedding Feast” is about the Kingdom of Heaven. We could take the symbols represented in the parable as a miniature history of God’s salvation history. Think of the following equivalent themes that could provide some insight into a possible explanation. The king would represent God the Father preparing a wedding banquet for Christ the Son and the spotless bride, the Church. “I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.” (Rev 21:2) The first calling could be to the Jews, the people of Israel. The second calling could be to everyone else. Everyone is invited to the wedding banquet.

The last part of the parable, concerning the person without the proper wedding clothes could be interpreted as those that “...have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Rev 7:14) To be in the Kingdom of Heaven requires a cleansing that can only be done by the Holy Spirit as we “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)