

COME, FOR ALL THINGS ARE READY!

*Matthew 22* opens with Jesus speaking a parable. It is most widely and well-known as the Marriage Parable or the Wedding Feast Parable. In it an invitation was given to the Jews to come to the King's Son's marriage, the King being God, the Father, and the Son being God, the Son, Jesus Christ. But the rebellious, irreligious, disobedient Jews would not acknowledge God's kindness and they refused to come. *Matthew 22:2* says "*they were not willing to come.*" *Matthew 22:5* records their responses. "*...they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.*"

A parable similar to that of *Matthew 22* is written in *Luke 14*. It is usually identified by the title "The Great Supper Parable." Like *Matthew 22*, in it "*A certain man gave a great supper and invited*

*many.*" And again, those who were invited would not come. It is written, "*they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.'* And another said, '*I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'* Still another said, '*I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.*'"

In both parables the King and the "*certain man*" had prepared everything for their guests to enjoy. The King in *Matthew 22* said, "*See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted*

*cattle are killed, and all things are ready.*" The "*certain man*" in *Luke 14* said "*Come, for all things are now ready.*"

We understand that these parables teach that God has invited all men to come and enjoy the good taste of salvation that has been prepared through His Son Jesus Christ's death – the spilling of His blood – and His burial and His resurrection. All the work – all the preparations – has been done by God Almighty. Men need not do anything towards the preparation of the meal. "*All things are now ready*" and all that we need do is to come to His table of riches.



The invitation to come to the table of the Lord has been offered for the last two thousand years. Every Lord's Day the table has been set. Both the loaf and the cup are on the table for those who will come. They have been placed there by our Lord. But, amazingly, it still happens that some men continue to give excuses for not being at the table, sometimes the same, exact excuses recorded in *Luke 14*: their property, their possessions, and their partners in life take priority over their partaking of the supper.

This is a very serious and eternally determining decision to make. In the *Matthew 22* parable the King "*was furious*" with those who "*were not willing to come.*" In the *Luke 14* parable "*the master of the house [was] angry*" with the excuses given. How can we not ask ourselves at such a time as this what must Almighty God's reactions be to those who have been

purchased *“with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (I Peter 1:19)* but who will not come to the Lord’s Supper table where *“all things are now ready?”*

Some who profess to be children of God give many excuses for being absent from the table on any given Lord’s Day. And that is just what they are – excuses, not reasons. They have excused themselves from the only table in the universe that has been set in honor of the Son of God. They have declined the Almighty’s invitation to sit at the meal where all things on the table have been prepared and provided by Him. After all, Jesus did say *“this is My body”* and *“this is My blood.”*

We who are assembled here today bring but one thing to the table – ourselves. And even this is but by the grace of God. We are the recipients of God’s grace. We are the privileged guests. But before we arrived at this table we too had to be prepared – to be made ready for our partaking of the meal. You see not anyone can come and eat and drink at this table. It is only for God’s chosen few – those who have obeyed the Son of the King and His gospel.

*Revelation 19:9* says, *“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”* And because of her readiness, *“to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”* We have our place at the table only because we have been clothed with the *“fine linen”* of Jesus Christ’s righteousness. What a blessing it is to know that we are invited to come to the table where *“all things are now ready”* wearing the righteousness of Jesus Christ.