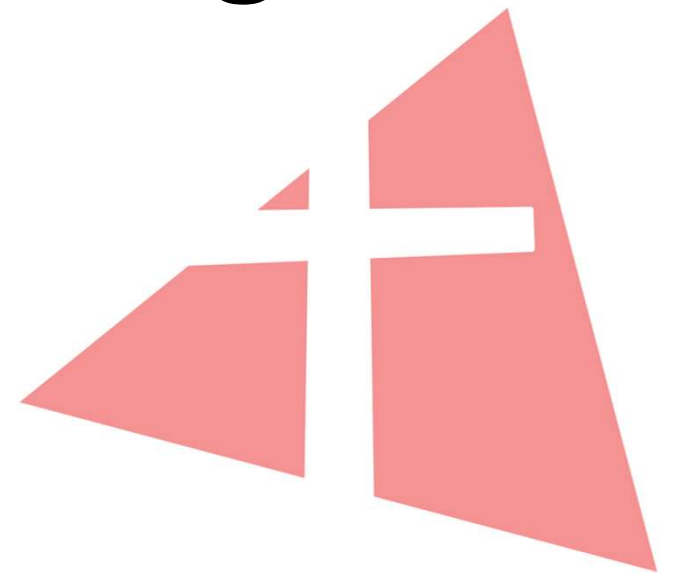


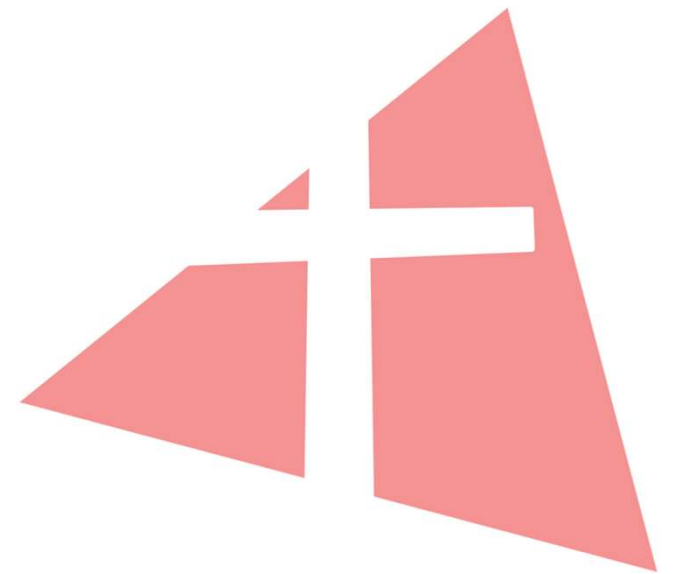
Who is God? Who am I? The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

September 22nd 2024



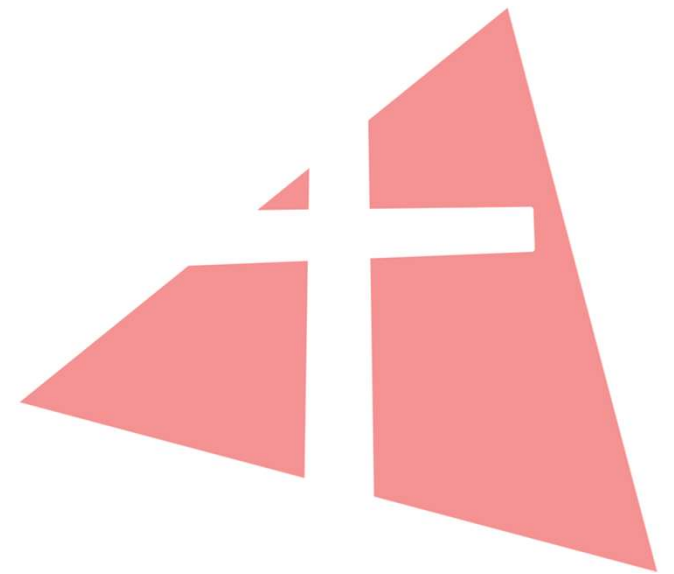
Our Series

- **Who is God? Who am I?**
- **The Relationship Aspect**
 - Lost Sheep
 - Waiting Father
- **Forgiveness**



Today's Focus

- **The Parable of the Wedding Banquet**
 - Luke 14
 - Matthew 22

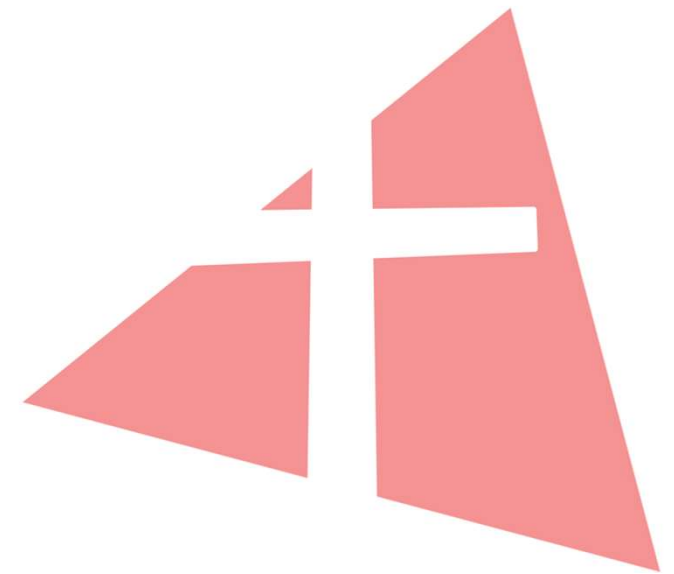


Today's Passage

Luke 14:16-24 Then said he unto him, A certain man gave a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it: I pray you have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them: I pray you have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and showed his lord these things. Then the Master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor, and the maimed, and the lame, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as you have commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men who were bidden shall taste of my supper.

Jewish Wedding Customs

- **There are always two(!) invitations**
 - The first one, so that arrangements can be made
 - The second one for people to actually come
- **This story is about the second(!) invitation!**



The Second Invitation

Luke 14:16-17 Then said he unto him, A certain man gave a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.



The Excuses

Luke 14:18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it: I pray you have me excused.



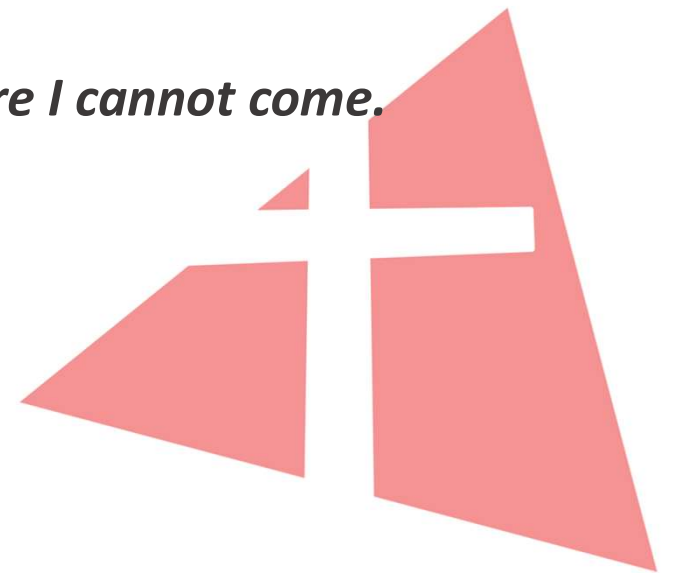
The Excuses

Luke 14:19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them: I pray you have me excused.



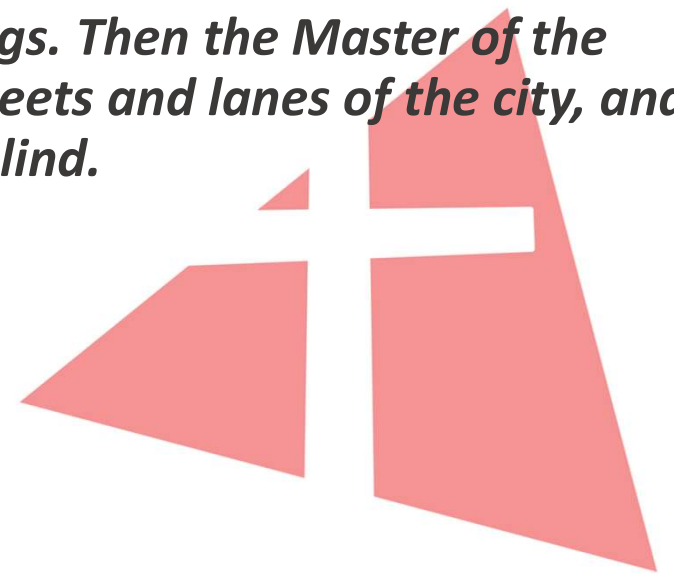
The Excuses

Luke 14:20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.



The Master's Response

Luke 14:21 So that servant came, and showed his lord these things. Then the Master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor, and the maimed, and the lame, and the blind.



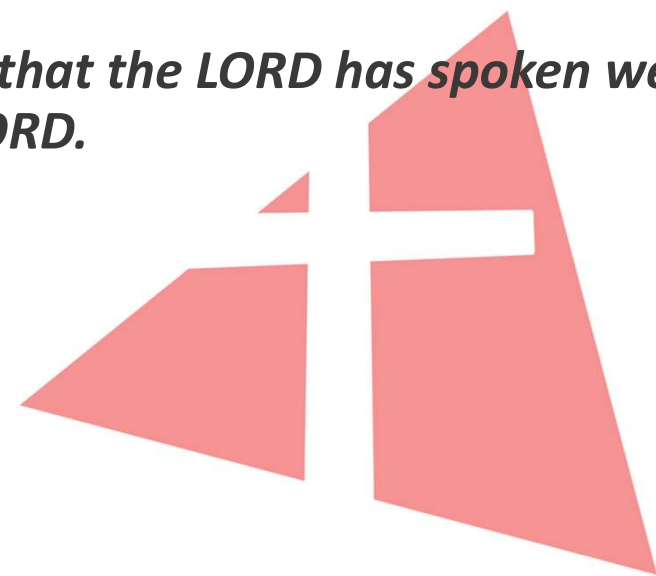
The Master's Response

Luke 14:22-24 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as you have commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men who were bidden shall taste of my supper.



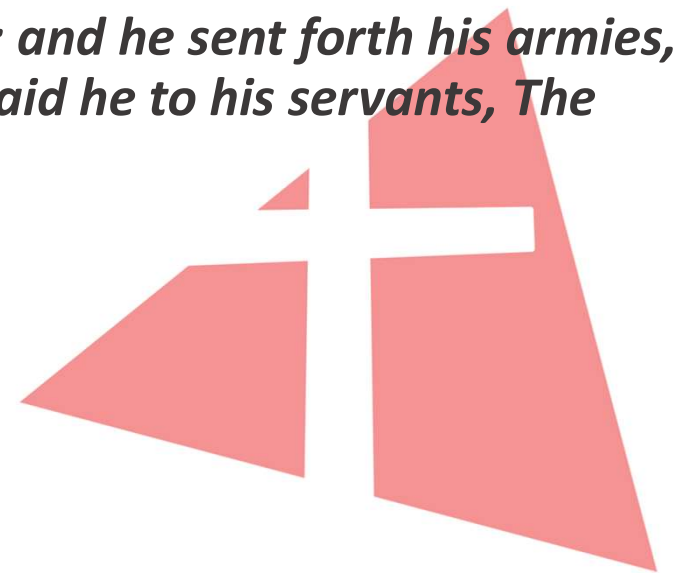
The Jews already said “Yes”

Exodus 19:8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD has spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.



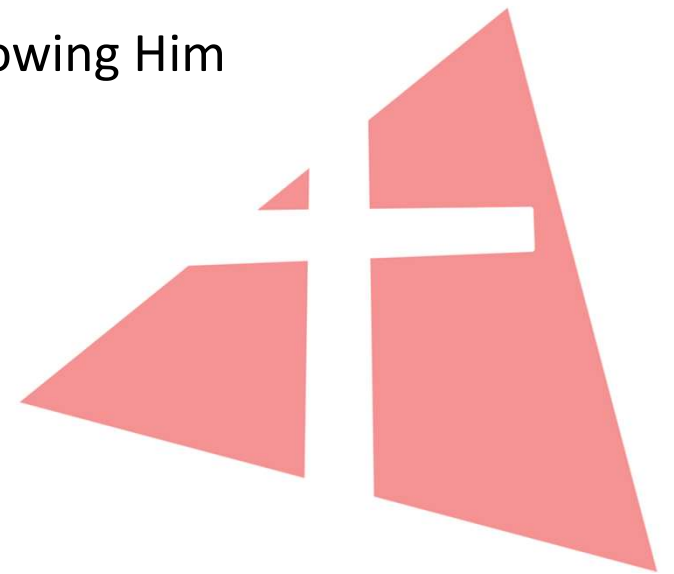
Matthew's Version

Matthew 22:7-8 But when the king heard thereof, he was angry: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then said he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they who were bidden were not worthy.



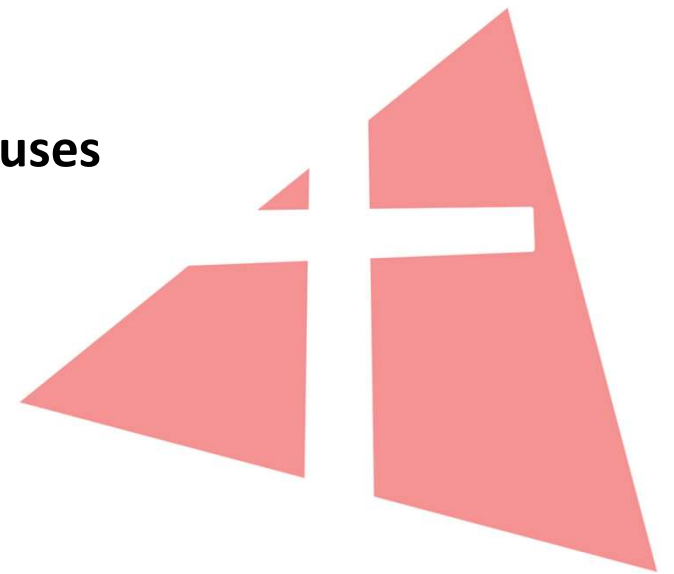
The Different Focuses

- **Matthew focuses on the Jews**
 - God will reject and destroy you, if you make excuses for following Him
- **Luke focuses on the Gentiles**
 - The invitation is open to you now as well



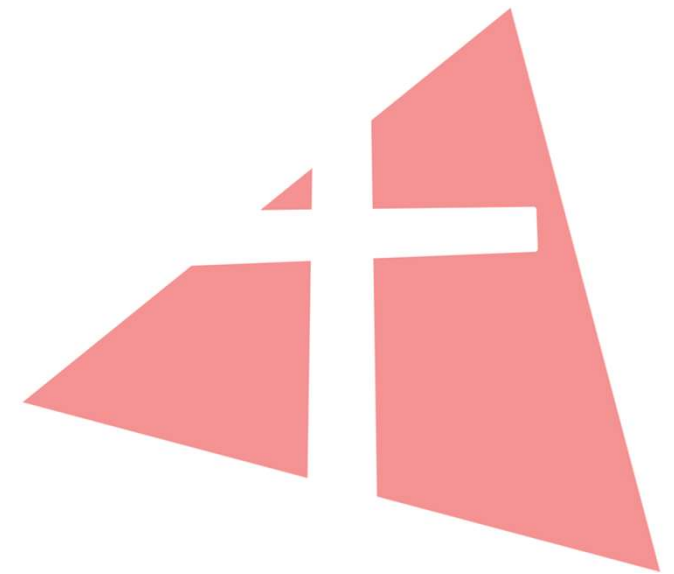
Application

- The invitation is open to all of us
- But once we say “yes” to Jesus, we can’t make any further excuses



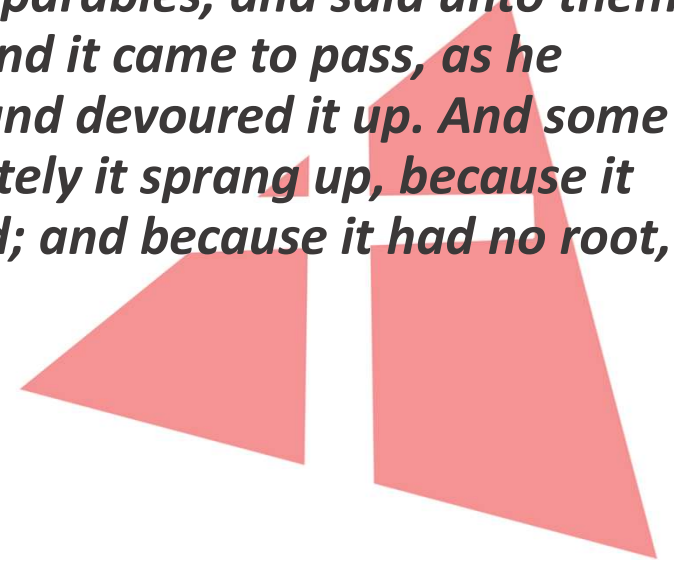
Application

- **Anytime we say “no” to God because of anything in this world, we seriously offend God**
 - Personal Time with God
 - Time with the Church Community
 - Obedience
 - Service/Mission



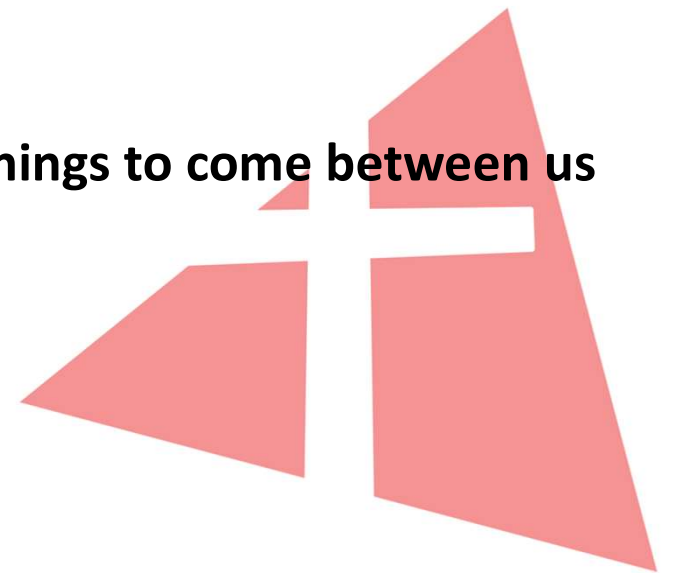
The Parable of the Sower

Mark 4:1-6 And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land. And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his teaching, Listen; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.



Application

- **Not everyone who gives their life to Jesus will remain in Faith long term**
- **Distractions and temptations will come**
- **We have to constantly examine ourselves to not allow other things to come between us and God**



Next Week

- **We will talk about how this parable does (and does not) apply to our commitment to the church**



In Conclusion

- **We have to allow God to examine our hearts regularly**
 - Did I say “No” to God in some form today?
- **We have to deal with things that prevent us from “coming to God”**

