

BE READY FOR THE WEDDING

Jesus taught a lesson about the kingdom of heaven. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a wedding celebration for a prince. The father of the prince, the king, invited many people to the celebration. On the day of the wedding, they didn't come to the celebration. The king sent out his servants to tell those who were invited that all the food was ready, and that they should come. They still didn't come. The king wanted people to come to the celebration, so he sent his servants out to the roadways to invite all whom they found. The servants brought many people to the feast.

The king wanted everyone to wear the special robes he had for the guests. When the king came in to the celebration, he saw that one of the guests had not put on the special robe. The king had him thrown out.

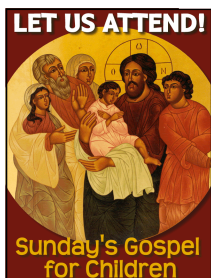
Jesus explained that God wants everyone to come into the kingdom of heaven. We need to stay close to God, and obey Him. Then we will be ready to come into the kingdom of heaven.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

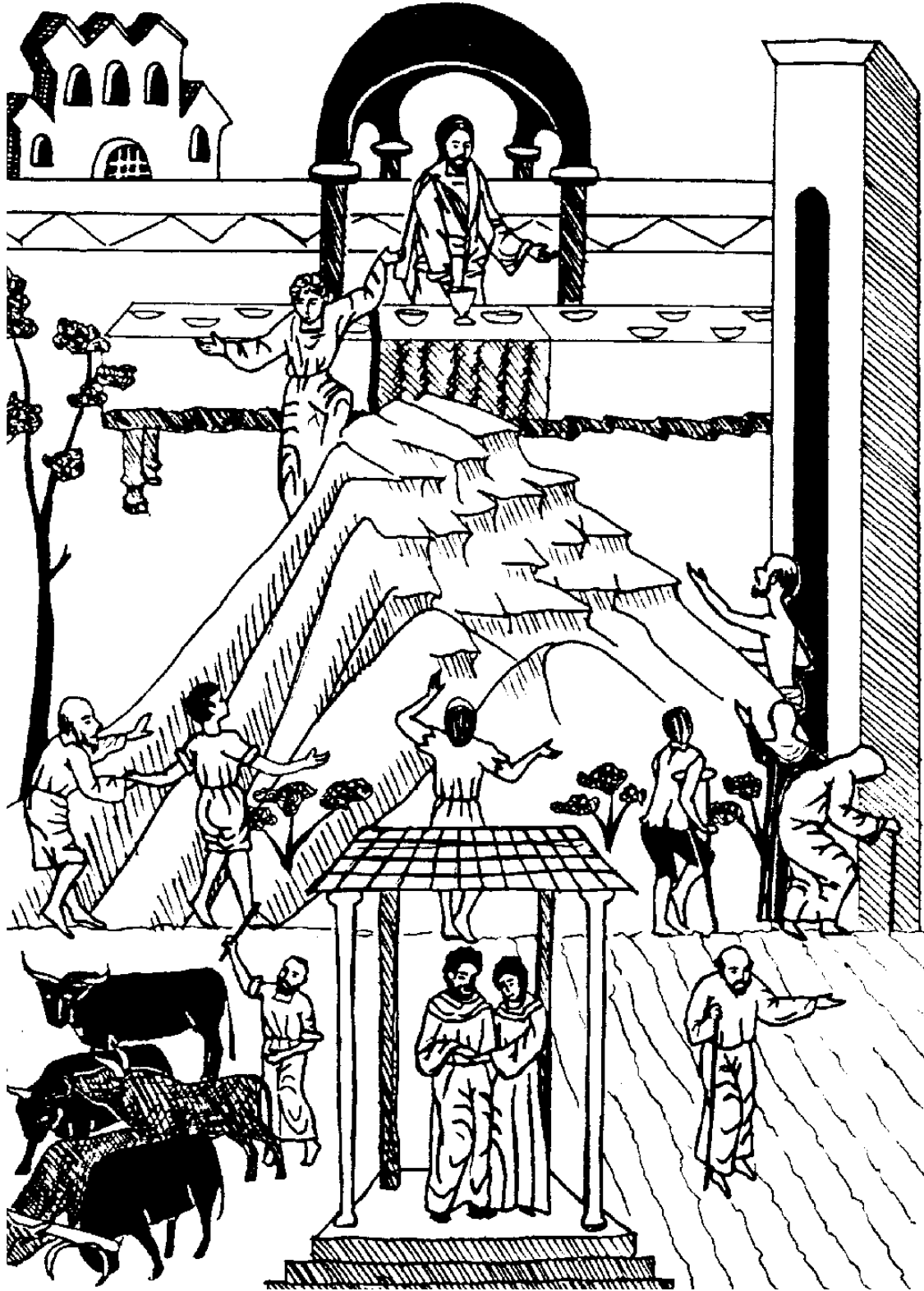
1. The king invited people to a celebration. What was the celebration for?
2. When you have a party, do you want a lot of people to come? Why?
3. The people he invited didn't come, so the king invited people he didn't even know.
4. A person came to the wedding feast but he wasn't ready. What did he need?
5. God wants everyone to come into the kingdom. But we must be ready. How do we get ready?



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Pre-



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BE READY FOR THE WEDDING

Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is like a king who arranged for a marriage for his son, and then when it was all ready, he sent out his servants to call all those who were invited to the wedding, but they weren't willing to come. So he sent out more servants and he said, "Tell those people that I invited I've already prepared the dinner. The oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and everything's ready, so come. It's time for the wedding." But they joked about it and wouldn't listen to the servants. Some of them went off to work on their farms, others went off to their businesses, some of them even grabbed the servants, were mean to them, and even killed them. When the king found out, he was furious. He gathered together his army, and he sent them to destroy the murderers, and burn down their city.

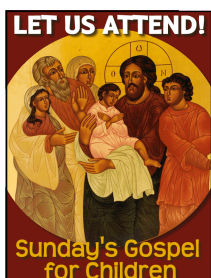
Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready, but those people who were invited to the wedding, they were not worthy to come. Please, go out into the highways now, and whoever you can find, invite them to come to the wedding." So that's what the servants did. And very soon, the whole wedding hall was full of people ready to celebrate! When the king came into the wedding hall and looked around at all his guests, he noticed that one of them was not wearing the wedding clothes that had been provided for him. So, he walked over to the guest and said to him, "Friend, why aren't you wearing the wedding garment?" The man looked at him and didn't have anything to say. So the king called his servants and said, "Tie up this man and take him out of here." Because many have been called, but only a few have been chosen.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Have you ever been to a birthday party where only a few of the people who were invited came? How do you think the person felt who invited the people who didn't come?
2. If God is the king in this story, how do you think He feels when people who He has invited to His Kingdom choose not to come into it?
3. How hard did the king in this story try to get as many people as possible into the wedding feast?
4. That's how hard God tries to get all of us to come to be a part of His Kingdom.



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MANY ARE CALLED, FEW ARE CHOSEN

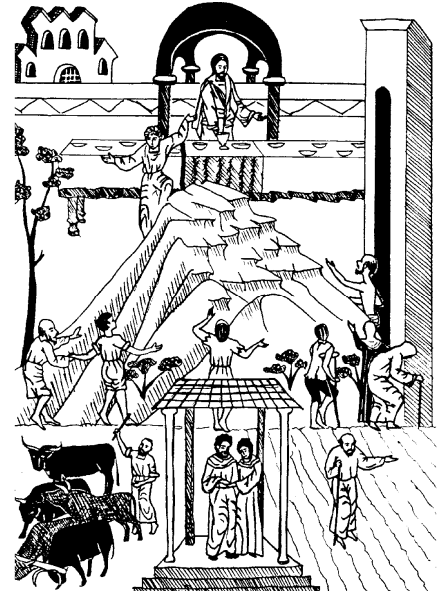
The Lord spoke this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come.

Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.'

But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. But when the king heard of it he was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then

he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.' And those servants went into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

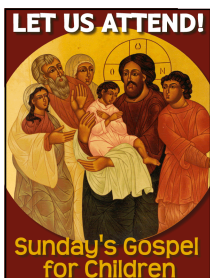
"But when the king came in to look at the guests he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Have you ever been at a birthday party where only half of those invited came? How did the birthday person feel?
2. In the parable, the king wants people to come to the wedding celebration. What does the celebration represent in real life?
3. Why does God want people to be with him in the kingdom?
4. At the time of Jesus, the host of a celebration provided robes for the guests. In the parable, the king finds a person without a wedding garment and throws him out. What does this tell you about the kingdom of heaven?
5. What does Jesus want us to learn from this parable?



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MANY ARE CALLED, FEW ARE CHOSEN

Characters: Narrator, Jesus, King

Narrator: The Lord spoke this parable:

Jesus: The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come.

Again he sent other servants, saying,

King: Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.

Jesus: But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. But when the king heard of it he was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants,

King: The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.

Jesus: And those servants went into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

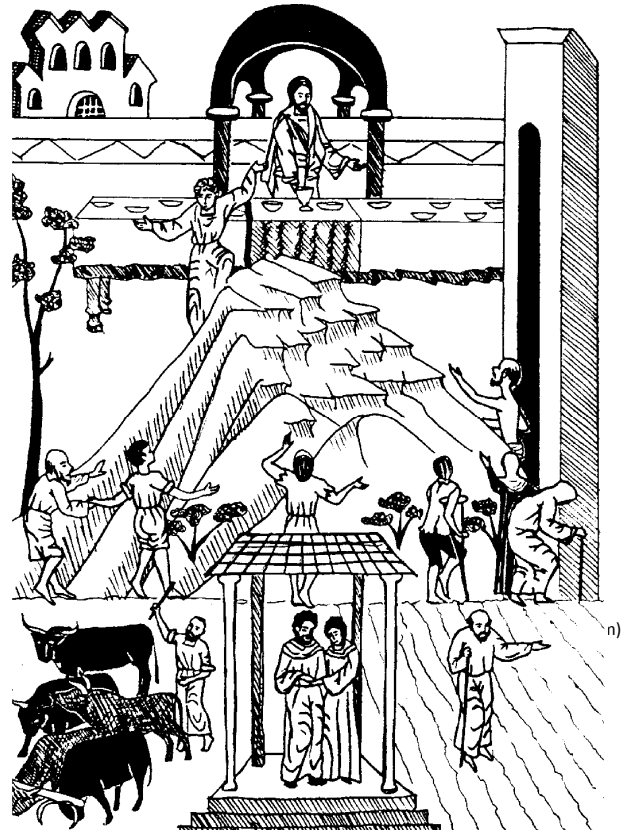
But when the king came in to look at the guests he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him,

King: Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?

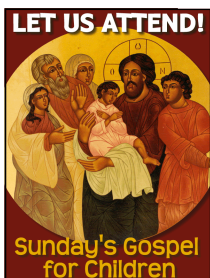
Jesus: And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants,

King: Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.

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



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WILL YOU BE CHOSEN?

The Lord spoke this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come.

Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.'

But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. But when the king heard of it he was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thorough-



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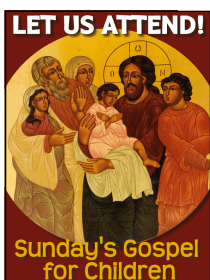
fares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.' And those servants went into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to look at the guests he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and

he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. In the parable, the king wants people to come to the wedding celebration. What does the celebration represent in real life?
2. God wants everyone to be with him in the kingdom. What does this tell you about God?
3. Has Jesus called you to the kingdom?
4. At the time of Jesus, the person who hosted a celebration provided robes for the guests. In the parable, the king throws out the person who does not have a robe. Does that make sense? Why, why not?
5. What is your "wedding garment?"



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TO BE CHOSEN FOR THE KINGDOM

The Lord spoke this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come.

Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.'

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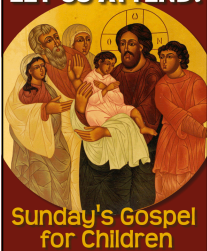
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"But when the king came in to look at the guests he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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