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## **GOSPELS (PARABLES)**

The gospels are accounts (historical narratives) of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, told from four different angles and to different audiences. More specifically, the parables contained in these historical narratives are fictitious stories Jesus told in order to teach eternal truth. To those who believed in Christ, the parables served to instruct them in the ways of the kingdom of God. To those who did not believe in Christ, the parables served as a form of judgment for their hard hearts. The reader, then, is forced to ask, “What kind of heart do I have?”

Before you get started, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand, believe, and obey his Word. Bible study, after all, is intended to help us see more clearly and savor more intensely our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **Matthew 22:1-14**

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables: 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to summon those invited to the banquet, but they didn’t want to come. 4 Again, he sent out other servants and said, ‘Tell those who are invited: See, I’ve prepared my dinner; my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’ 5 “But they paid no attention and went away, one to his own farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged, and he sent out his troops, killed those murderers, and burned down their city. 8 “Then he told his servants, ‘The banquet is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 Go then to where the roads exit the city and invite everyone you find to the banquet.’ 10 So those servants went out on the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding banquet was filled with guests. 11 When the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed for a wedding. 12 So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless. 13 “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him up hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where

there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 “For many are invited, but few are chosen.” -- Matthew 22:1-14 (CSB)

### **COMA QUESTIONS FOR MATTHEW 22:1-14**

Work your way through each section of COMA, allowing the questions to guide your journey through the text.

#### **Context**

- What has happened so far in the narrative? Have there been any major events, characters or themes?
- What has happened just prior to the section you are reading?

#### **Observation**

- What do you learn about the main characters in this section? How does the author describe them? How do they describe themselves?
- Is time or place significant in the events that happen in the passage?
- Is there a conflict or high point in the passage?
- Do you think there is a main point or theme in this section of the story?
- What surprises are there?

#### **Meaning**

- Are there any ‘editorial’ comments from the author about the events in the narrative? How do these comments illuminate what is happening?
- Does someone in the narrative learn something or grow in some way? How? What does this person learn?
- What does the passage reveal about who Jesus is, and what he came into the world to do?
- How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?

#### **Application**

- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
- Is there some attitude you need to change?
- What does this passage teach you about being a disciple of Jesus?

\*The COMA study method and questions are produced by Matthias Media and Holy Trinity Church. They have been taken from ***One-to-One Bible Reading*** by David Helm.

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