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Sermon Notes

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Lessons from the Parable of the Wedding Feast

Matthew 22:1-14

In 1985, I received a mysterious envelope... in the return address there was a name I'd never seen before—an Italian name, the first name was Rocco, and he lived in New York City

With my imagination running wild, I opened the envelope and found within an invitation to a wedding of two friends; the Italian man, Rocco, was father of the bride, and the two were to be wed at the United Nations Chapel in New York City, with a lavish reception dinner to be held at a fine New York City Hotel afterward

I drove down to New York with some other friends who had been similarly invited... we were all excited—we'd never been to a wedding like this before... in the United Nations Chapel of all places!

And the reception was the most expensive and lavish I've ever attended in my life; there was a sit-down dinner with fine linen table cloth and heavy silverware and a gender-specific gift at each place; in later years, I've come to realize how expensive even a regular wedding can be, but this was hundreds of people in a plush New York City hotel

All over the world, fathers spend millions of dollars on incredibly expensive wedding ceremonies for their children

In China, weddings are paid for by the father of the groom, and may amount to as much as two to three years' salary for him!!

In Middle Eastern nations, it's not uncommon for weddings to cost between 50 and 100,000 dollars

The culmination of wedding customs around the world is always the wedding feast—a time of lavish food and entertainment and unrestrained joy, frequently ceremonial dancing and overwhelming happiness

And that, my friends, is what Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven would be like:

Matthew 22:2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son."

I. Review of the Parable

A. Context: The Final Week of Jesus' Life

1. The Final Week of Jesus' Life
2. Triumphal entry: Hosannah, Hallelujah... even the little children
3. BUT a week of CONFLICT with the Jewish authorities
 - a. They rebuke the children for praising Jesus
 - b. Jesus cleanses the temple... they conspire to kill Him
 - c. Jesus teaches in the temple area
 - d. The Jewish leaders confront Him on His authority to do all these things
 - e. Jesus tells two parables to uncover the Jewish leaders' rebellion against God
 - i) The Parable of the Two Sons... Jesus applies it

Matthew 21:31-32 "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

- ii) The Parable of the Wicked Tenants and the Vineyard... Jesus applies it

Matthew 21:43-44 "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. ⁴⁴ He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

4. The Jewish leaders got the message:

Matthew 21:45-46 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. ⁴⁶ They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

5. Why Jesus used parables
 - a. A parable is a story from daily life used to illustrate a spiritual principle
 - b. If you understand it, it is a very powerful teaching tool
 - c. So Jesus told another parable... the parable of the Wedding Feast

Matthew 22:1 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying:

B. The Parable Recounted and Described

1. A Wedding Banquet Prepared for the Son

Matthew 22:2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.

2. Servants Sent to Gather Invited Guests

Matthew 22:3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come

3. Those Invited Reject the Messengers

Matthew 22:3 but they refused to come.

4. The King Tries Again... More Messengers

Matthew 22:4 "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. Those Invited Attack the Messengers

Matthew 22:5-6 "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.

6. The Rage of the King

Matthew 22:7 The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

7. The General Invitation Goes Out to Everyone

Matthew 22:8-10 "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...

8. The Wedding Hall Filled with Guests

Vs. 10 and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

9. The King Evicts a Man Not Wearing Wedding Clothes

Matthew 22:11-13 "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.'

II. Lesson #1: The Gift of Christ's Righteousness is Essential to Heaven

Matthew 22:11-13 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.'

A. What Are the "Wedding Clothes"? Why Such a Harsh Response?

William Hendriksen explains this amazing outcome in this way:

"There can be only one explanation... it is that by the command of the King and from His bountiful supplies, at the very entrance of the wedding hall a wedding robe had been offered to each guest. All except this person had accepted the robe. This one man, however, had looked at his own robe, had perhaps lightly brushed it off with his hand, and had then told the attendant, 'My own robe is good enough. I don't need the one you're offering me.' Then in an attitude of self-satisfaction and defiance, he had marched to the table..."

John MacArthur's insight on this passage is powerful:

"The proper wedding garment of a true believer is God-imputed righteousness, without which no one can enter or live in that kingdom."

B. Positive Righteousness Required for Heaven

1. The Sermon on the Mount

I believe the Scripture teaches us that we must be positively righteous to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Christ said plainly in the Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

A moment later, Jesus stated:

Matthew 5:48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Putting the two together, Jesus is claiming that perfect righteousness is required to enter the Kingdom of Heaven

2. "Open the Gates"

To whom will God open the Gates of the New Jerusalem?

Isaiah 26:2 Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith.

3. The “Home of Righteousness”

Thus perfect righteousness is required in order to spend eternity with God in the New Heaven and the New Earth... Peter speaks of it this way:

2 Peter 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

C. Problem: No One is Righteous

But if perfect righteousness is required to live in that beautiful place, we are all in a dire predicament: not one of us is righteous

Romans 3:10 There is no one righteous, not even one

In the parable, the man is SPEECHLESS when asked about his lack of wedding clothes

D. The Answer of the Gospel: Imputed Righteousness

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only answer to this great quandary

Romans 3:21-24 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

E. The Imputation of Christ’s Righteousness

1. Definition of Imputation

the imputation of the perfect righteousness of Christ to us by faith. This doctrine teaches that, if we have faith in Christ, we are justified. Justification is both positive and negative

Positively: Christ righteousness is imputed to us, so that we are seen as righteous as Christ

Negatively: Our sins are not imputed to us, but rather to Christ, whose blood atoned for them and paid the penalty they deserved

Christ’s active obedience—His faithful and perfect obedience to the Law of God— weaving a perfect robe of righteousness in which God clothes us by faith the moment we first believed. In that active righteousness of Christ we are seen perfect by God, and on the basis of that we will be welcomed into the perfect city of God

Just before he died, J. Gresham Machen sent a message to his friend and theological co-laborer John Murray:

“I am thankful for the active obedience of Christ; no hope without it.”

F. Imputation Essential to Our Acceptance on Judgment Day

1. In the parable, the man is thrown out because he is not covered in wedding clothes
2. This is akin to the reception anyone will get who is not perfectly righteous on Judgment Day

G. How to be as Righteous as Jesus

1. Scriptures that teach the imputation of Christ’s righteousness

Romans 4:3 What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

1 Corinthians 1:30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God-- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

Philippians 3:8-9 that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2. John Bunyan

- a. Converted in Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners when he realized “Thy righteousness is in heaven”

One day as I was passing into the field, and that too with some dashes on my conscience, fearing lest yet all was not right, suddenly this sentence fell upon my soul, **‘Thy righteousness is in heaven.’** And I thought I saw with the eyes of my soul, Jesus Christ at God’s right hand; **there, I say was my righteousness;** so that wherever I was or whatever I was doing, God could not say of me, ‘He lacks my righteousness’, for that was just before him. I saw moreover that it was not my good frame of heart that made my righteousness better, nor from my bad frame that made my righteousness worse; for my righteousness was Jesus Christ himself, ‘the same yesterday, today and forever’

Bunyan goes on to say he could not find that sentence in the Bible, but found the doctrine in 1 Corinthians 1:30 and many other places... the doctrine of the imputation of Christ’s righteousness

- a. Wrote about it in *Pilgrim’s Progress*

In *The Pilgrim’s Progress* Bunyan tells us that at the cross not only did Christian lose his burden but he was also given a change of clothing: his rags were taken away and replaced

by a new outfit. Not long after that glorious exchange he was troubled to see two men come tumbling over the wall into the way that leads to the Celestial City. He soon discovered that these two characters, Formalist and Hypocrisy, believed that they were well on the way to Heaven although they airily dismissed any suggestion that they ought to have entered the Christian life by the strait gate. Inevitably this led to controversy between Christian and the newcomers who began to comment on Christian's clothes, saying:

we see not wherein thou differest from us, but by the coat that is on thy back, which was, we trust, given thee by some of thy neighbours, to hide the shame of thy nakedness.

Christian replied,

As for this coat that is on my back, it was given me by the Lord of the place whither I go; and that as you say to cover my nakedness with. And I take it as a token of his kindness to me; for I had nothing but rags before. And besides, thus I comfort myself as I go: Surely, think I, when I come to the gate of the city, the Lord thereof will know me for good, since I have his coat on my back—a coat that he gave me freely in the day that he stripped me of my rags.

1. Charles Wesley captured the doctrine admirably in his hymn, "And Can It Be"

No condemnation now I dread;
 Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
 alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
 bold I approach th' eternal throne,
 and claim the crown, through Christ my own.
 Bold I approach th' eternal throne,
 and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Application:

Turn away from your own righteousness and accept the perfect robe of Christ's righteousness!! Accept that in Christ you are perfectly holy by faith! In these clothes you will stand for all eternity!

III. Lesson #2: Heaven is a Joyful Place

Matthew 22:2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.

Psalm 16:11 you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand

A. The Joys of Heaven are Hinted At Here

1. The Kingdom of Heaven is likened to a King preparing a wedding banquet for His Son
2. Foundational to the joys of heaven: RELATIONSHIP
 - a. The most important relationship in the universe: the love relationship between the Father and the Son
 - b. This is the pattern for every other love relationship in the universe

John 15:9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

- c. Jesus' High Priestly prayer

John 17:26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.

Heaven is SO JOYFUL because it is founded on the perfect love the Father has for the Son

The Father loves the Son and does everything He can for the Son's joy

3. Secondary relationship... but CENTRAL to the event: the love relationship between Christ and His bride, the church
 - a. The Father is throwing a lavish **wedding** banquet for His Son
 - b. What happier event can there ever be in life than a wedding banquet??
 - c. In life, it signifies a man and a woman coming together in holy matrimony... the union of two to become one flesh
 - d. Foundational to this is the love they have for each other... a love that they will celebrate for the rest of their lives!!
 - e. But the Bible reveals that all earthly are really just pale reflections of the heavenly perfection of marriage between Christ and His Church

Ephesians 5:31-32 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³² This is a profound mystery-- but I am talking about Christ and the church.

- f. For this reason, the Book of Revelation portrays the consummation of human history as a WEDDING between Christ and His church

Revelation 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

Revelation 21:2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

- g. The consummation of heaven: when all the elect of God are fully saved, clothed perfectly in the righteousness of Christ, in resurrection bodies, ready to be united with the bridegroom in an eternity of union... symbolized on earth by marriage

4. The wedding feast

- a. Eating, drinking, laughter, conversation, joy and happiness
- b. Sin banished... elect from every tribe, language, people, nation... sitting at table with God and with Christ
- c. No gluttony, no drunkenness, no lewdness, no uncleanness at all... for the old order of things will have passed away
- d. We will celebrate with GREAT JOY in the presence of God!

B. Yearn for this Joy!! An Don't Miss It!!

- 1. I plead with you, put aside lesser distractions and earthly pleasures
- 2. The people in the parable were distracted with money, possessions, occupations, and many earthly things
- 3. Christ calls on you now to leave behind lesser things and ascend in your hearts, to long for the day when you will feast at the wedding banquet with Him... to follow Him in joy and hope and longing!!
- 4. To repent of your sins and set your hearts on things above and on things to come

IV. Lesson #3: Hell is a Terrifying Place

A. Hell Described Briefly Here

Matthew 22: 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.'

B. Further Descriptions of Hell Elsewhere

Revelation 14:10-11 he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with

burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night

Matthew 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:46 Then they will go away to eternal punishment

Mark 9:48 where "'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'

Revelation 20:14-15 The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire

Details from this parable:

C. Tie Hand and Foot, and Throw Him

1. The king commands the man to be tied hand and foot
2. The image is one of forceful restriction... the man cannot get away
3. Hell is the place of ultimate restriction... from hell there can be no escape
4. Every prison harbors within it prisoners who hope to escape
 - a. Even Alcatraz, the famous rocky island in the middle of San Francisco Bay, though surrounded by miles of frigid, shark-infested waters, did not quench the hopes of many of its inmates from escape; in fact, the debate rages that three prisoners actually DID escape successfully from Alcatraz in June of 1962
 - b. Dante's Inferno: "Abandon hope all you who enter here!"
5. God knows how to keep His prisoners... not one shall escape
 - a. When judging people on earth, God the omniscient one spoke of the impossibility of escape

Jeremiah 23:24 Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD.

Amos 9:1-3 Not one will get away, none will escape. ² Though they dig down to the depths of the grave, from there my hand will take them. Though they climb up to the heavens, from there I will bring them down. ³ Though they hide themselves on the top of Carmel, there I will hunt them down and seize them. Though they hide from me at the bottom of the sea, there I will command the serpent to bite them.

b. How much more is it impossible to escape from hell... God's omniscience and God's omnipotence make escaping from His prison impossible

c. The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus:

Luke 16:26 between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.

d. God held powerful angels by mighty chains in the pit BEFORE Judgment Day...

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home-- these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

e. how much more will he hold them and the damned afterwards!

6. There can be NO ESCAPE

7. Also notice that they are THROWN outside

a. Some make foolish statements like "God never sends anyone to hell, but people send themselves there by their own choices"

b. Dear friends, when the reality of hell will be revealed on Judgment Day, no one will willingly CHOOSE to jump into the Lake of Fire... mighty angels will have to bind them and THROW THEM there

D. Outside

1. The word "outside" means outside the wedding hall, where there is joy and delight

2. The word "outside" means an end to everything good and delightful; all pleasure ends, there is nothing left but misery

3. They are excluded... cast out... rejected... not permitted to enter or enjoy the presence of God or of God's elect

E. Darkness

1. They are thrown into the darkness... where there is nothing good...

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

2. The New Jerusalem and the New Earth are illuminated by the light of the glory of God

Revelation 21:23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

3. Hell is a place of utter darkness... symbolic of the fact that God and everything good is completely absent

F. Weeping

1. This points to deep psychological and emotional pain of those in hell
2. People weep in hell because of deep and bitter regrets
3. They remember all the good things they had on earth and how they never thanked God for any of them

Luke 16:25 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things

4. Perhaps they remember the times they heard the gospel but rejected
5. How much they long for another day on earth, for another opportunity to hear the gospel one more time... but there will be none
6. How much they long to be in heaven, where there is such abundance and such joy and such delight and pleasure and happiness... but they are now forbidden
7. And so they weep and weep... for eternity!!

G. Gnashing of Teeth

1. This points to searing physical pain of those in hell
2. It is portrayed as a Lake of Burning Sulfur... a Lake of Fire... a place of infinite torment
3. People will gnaw their tongues in agony... they will long for a moment's relief but none will come

H. Summary: Please Flee the Wrath to Come!!

1. There is NO EARTHLY situation as horrible as hell
2. Hell is more horrible than dying in an AIDS hospital in Uganda... if a damned soul could be offered one day out of hell to lay in a sick bed in that AIDS hospital, he would seize it in a heartbeat
3. Hell is more horrible than a Nazi prison camp like Auschwitz or Bergen-Belsen; if one tormented soul in hell could be offered the chance to go back to a concentration camp for a single day, he would do so

4. We are commanded to flee the wrath to come by fleeing to Christ
5. Christ suffered hell for us on the cross that we might not suffer it eternally

2 Corinthians 6:2 *"In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.*

6. Seek the righteousness of Christ by faith, so that you will not be unclothed on Judgment Day, but rather clothed with Christ

V. Lesson #4: God is Sovereign in Salvation

Matthew 22:14 *"For many are invited, but few are chosen."*

KJV, NASB, ESV **Matthew 22:14** *For many are called, but few are chosen."*

A. Called by God

1. God initiated the call here... the "invitation" to the Wedding Banquet
2. No sinner can invite himself any more than a random person can invite himself to a lavish wedding at a posh resort
3. God must call us
4. This calling is listed plainly as a step in the chain of salvation in Romans 8

Romans 8:29-30 *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*

5. We must be summoned to the wedding banquet by the King
6. The summons is nothing less than the call of God through the gospel of Jesus Christ

B. Two Different Callings: General and Effectual

C. The General Call of the Gospel: Evangelism

1. The general call: the widespread dissemination of the gospel
2. Messengers are sent out into all the world to preach the good

Romans 10:14-15 *How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can they preach*

unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Romans 10:18 But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: "Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."

3. The general call goes indiscriminately to anyone and everyone to whom the evangelists and missionaries travel
 - a. Someone visits a new neighbor and brings a loaf of homebaked bread, and shares the gospel—inviting that person to come to Christ; that is the general call of the gospel
 - b. An urban evangelist sets up a tent crusade in an abandoned city block and has a week-long gospel service; every time he proclaims the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name and calls on people to repent and believe he is issuing the general call
 - c. A missionary in China conducts an English-language class and they use the Bible as a text; a university student comes and the teacher shares the gospel plainly, inviting him to trust in Christ for eternal life—that is the general gospel call
 - d. A physician witnesses to a patient who has just received a diagnosis of terminal cancer; the doctor speaks of Christ crucified and issues a call to repent and believe—that is the general gospel call
4. It does not go to every single solitary human being—he says “Many are called” not “Everyone is called”
5. But countless millions hear the gospel, this general call to repent and believe the good news
6. As Christians, we are responsible to spread the gospel as far and wide as possible... the general call, the general invitation of the gospel to come to Christ

Matthew 22:10 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.

7. Jesus himself did this

John 7:37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.

8. The general call is human language... speaking of the Good News of eternal life through faith in Christ; and it goes on millions of times every day

D. The Effectual Call of the Gospel: Regeneration

1. This is the sovereign act of God in creating something that didn't exist before
2. Like when God spoke into nothingness and created the universe

Genesis 1:3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

3. So God created a new light in the darkness of the human heart at the moment of regeneration

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

4. It is spoken of in Romans 4 like how God spoke Isaac into existence from two elderly parents, Abraham and Sarah, who had for decades been unable to conceive a child
5. God set "Let there be life" and there was life

Romans 4:17 the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

6. Or like when Jesus called Lazarus from the grave:

John 11:43-44 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"⁴⁴ The dead man came out

7. How does it work??
 - a. The general call goes forth: human evangelists go out to preach the gospel and proclaim in Jesus' name the forgiveness of sins
 - b. In the hearts of the elect, God does something more... He calls effectively to their hearts—calling life from death, calling light from darkness, calling faith from unbelief, CREATING SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING

8. This is the drawing of God, the effectual calling of God

John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

9. Some call it "Irresistible grace" but a better name is "Effectual grace"... God sovereignly CREATES in the human heart the light of Christ by calling it into existence

E. Not Everyone Gets Called by God

1. Many receive the general call of the gospel... but not everyone; some people do die without ever hearing the name of Jesus Christ
2. But only FEW are chosen by God to receive the effectual call... they are the called, the chosen, the Christians

F. God's Sovereignty in Salvation

1. This is the mysterious culmination of Jesus' teaching:

ESV **Matthew 22:14** *For many are called, but few are chosen."*

2. Chosen for what? Chosen to receive the Kingdom of God; chosen to receive the robe of Christ's righteousness
3. According to Jesus, God sovereignly chooses whom He will clothe with wedding clothes... Many will be invited to the wedding banquet, but only those who are chosen by God will be clothed with the perfect righteousness of Christ

VI. Applications

- A. Delight in the Imputation of Christ's Righteousness!!
- B. Embrace the Joys of Heavenly Life: A Wedding Banquet Awaits Us!!
- C. Flee the Wrath to Come: Hell is a dreadful place... Christ warned us about it again and again
- D. Accept the doctrine of God's absolute sovereignty in salvation