

I. Introducing the Parable

These two parables cover the same road although in my mind they are distinct and different while emphasizing a common ground. The Luke parable tells a lesson with the object being to teach that in their own arrangements of things, the disciples should not overlook the needy, the poor, etc. The background is in vs 12-14 and the narrative is somewhat interrupted in vs 15 by one who seems to feel self-satisfied with the situation. Jesus therefore tells of the man who made a great supper and sent invitations to many only to discover that they all had personal reasons for not coming. The servant then is told to go and get anyone who will come so that the feast will be well attended but none of the recalcitrant guests may come. The parable in Matthew compares the kingdom of heaven to a king who invited many guests to a wedding and they would not come. When he sent his servants to fetch them, some had excuses for not coming and others became belligerent and attacked his messengers. The king executed a judgment on these wicked persons and then told his servants to fill the hall with whomever they could but to make sure that whoever came---each had the appropriate garment. (In other words: their background, etc., were meaningless if they were properly clad) And the one who came and did not take the garment was judged and cast out. The Lord ends the narration but noticing that many are called but few are chosen!

II. The point of the parable:

The invitation is given freely but many will not respond. Those who do not respond will not be received, those who respond incorrectly will not be received, but those who do respond, taking the king at his word, will be received and be honored guests. That is what the kingdom of heaven is like...a fellowship of those who responded to the gratuitous offer of the king. There are lots of needy and desolate people about us and they should not be neglected in our service. There are those who will come and we should not lose a lot of sleep over those who won't. We take the message to whomsoever will receive it and we leave all of the other judgments, etc., with the king.

III. The Lesson: I will attempt to summarize it on these lines:

- A. The church must reproduce itself by taking the truths of God to all people and welcoming those who will believe as the guests of the Lord.