

## THE ROYAL WEDDING

To help people understand what the Kingdom of Heaven is like, Jesus told this parable about a royal wedding.

A king prepared a wedding banquet for his son.

Then he sent servants to invite his guests to the wedding feast.

But they refused to come.

The King sent more servants, “Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.”

But those who had been invited paid no attention. One went off to his field.

Another went off to his business.

The rest seized his servants, ill-treated them and killed them.

When the King heard the news he was enraged.

He sent his army and destroyed the murderers and burned their city.

Then the King said to his servants, “The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.”

So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find — the bad as well as the good.

The wedding hall was filled with guests. The King noticed one of his guests was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, “How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?”

The man was speechless. 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.”

Jesus finished the parable by saying, ‘For many are invited, but few are chosen.’