

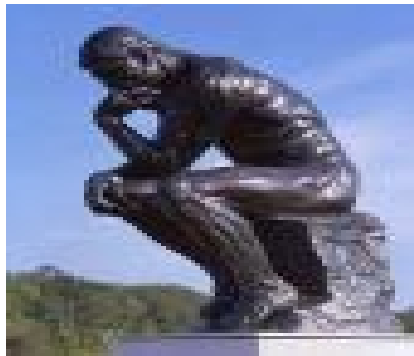
THE KING'S INVITATION

Matthew 22:1-14

I. MANY PEOPLE DON'T TAKE THE TEACHING OF JESUS SERIOUSLY ABOUT HELL AND THAT "MANY ARE CALLED, BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN."

- A. No matter how much we try to avoid the thought of death and God's judgment, we are getting closer and closer to it.
1. If we live 77 years we have about 3,237,696,000 heart beats in a lifetime (assuming 80 beats/minute). Every time our heart beats, we are drawing nearer and nearer to the day when our heart will stop. And none of us knows the day or the hour of our death.
 2. Some people estimate that every 1.68 seconds a person in the world dies.

Do you know what Rodin's "Thinker" is thinking about?



- B. There are about 162 references in the New Testament about hell. And Jesus spoke about 70 of them! (see Matthew 5:22; 7:19; 8:12; 13:41-42,47-50; 18:8-9; 22:13; 23:33; 25:41,46)
1. Hell is no less dreadful just because figurative language is used to describe it.
 2. The figurative and metaphorical language of hell emphasizes that it is far worse than anything we can imagine.

II. THE KING'S INVITATION TO THE JEWS (Matthew 22:3-7; cf. Matt.10:5,6; 15:24,26)

- A. The Jews had been waiting for God's wedding feast since God called Abraham in Genesis 12.
- B. Isaiah describes the wedding feast as the forgiveness of sins, the healing of our infirmities and diseases, the wiping away of our tears, deliverance from our enemies, the swallowing up of death or the "death of death," and a time of everlasting joy and celebration. (Isaiah 25:6-9; 65:8-16; see also Psalm 22:26-29)

Romans 11:17-21 (NASB95)

17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree,

18 do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you. 19 You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.”

20 Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; 21 for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either.

III. THE KING’S INVITATION GOES OUT TO MANY (Matthew 22:9-10)

A. The invitation of Matthew 22:9-10 goes out even today (cf. Romans 10:9).

B. The man who came to the wedding feast not dressed in wedding clothes is a man who had faith but not works (Matthew 22:11-12; cf. **Job29:14 with Genesis 18:19**; Isaiah 61:10; Romans 13:14; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 4:24-25; Colossians 3:12-17; Revelation 3:4,5,18; **19:7-9**).

Job 29:14

“I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban.

Luke 13:23-24

And someone said to Him, “Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?” And He said to them, 24 “Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

Hebrews 2:3

how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and turn it into a prayer. Have you responded to God’s invitation to put your faith and trust in Jesus? Can you say to Jesus, “Yes, Jesus I am a sinner and want to be cleansed of my sins.” Can you say, “Yes, Jesus I will leave everything and anything in my life that hinders me from enjoying You and seeking first Your kingdom”? The Bible says, “if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

What are ways people try to avoid thinking about the topic of death?

Can anyone honestly read the teaching of Jesus and avoid the topic of death, judgment and hell?

Who is the “Thinker” and what is he thinking about?

Does the figurative language of hell make it any less dreadful?

Can you retell the parable of the wedding feast in your own words?

Who was the dinner guest not dressed in wedding clothes?

