# Gospel of Matthew Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Matthew Chapter 22

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:Matthew 22 is yet another chapter that you won’t hear in YL club talks. It has five parts, with the most famous part being Jesus’ teaching on the Greatest Commandment (love God, love people; 22:34-39). However, the “love God, love people” passage might be better for a Campaigners discussion (though it could be a club talk too, in the form of “what if the world was really like this... that is what God is inviting you into as a Christian.”) For this Talk Tuesday I recommend The Parable of the Wedding Feast (22:1-14). I’ll admit it is a difficult one, but, I hope you will see how it includes three different challenges that fit really well late in a club talk sequence. As always, the context is key. It is the third of three parable which are addressed to the chief priests and Pharisees (21:23-22:14, cf. 21`:23, 45), it is a parable about the kingdom of heaven, but it is also addressed to confront the lives of the religious leaders. Here is an outline:1. Invitation sent to specific people (22:1-3a)
2. Invitation rejected by specific people (22:3b)
3. Invitation sent (again) to specific people (22:4)
4. Invitation rejected (again) by specific people (22:5-7)
5. Invitation sent to “as many as you can find” the “good and the bad” (22:8-10a)
6. Invitation accepted by many (22:10b)
7. Participation in the party is required (22:11-14)

The last section (22:11-14) can be a head-scratcher! But, it is important to remember that this is a parable, it should not be dissected for precise parallels to reality (same for 22:5-7, though this likely related to the destruction of the Temple in 70AD). The main point of 22:11-14 is that once you enter the party, participate in the party! |
| Possible main point(s):* By nature we tend to reject God’s invitation to be a part of our lives [sin talk perspective]
* Everyone is invited to follow God, the good and the bad. Invitation and entrance is free! [appropriation talk]
* Once you accept and respond to God’s 100% free invitation and entrance to his party and kingdom, participation is required. Grow in your faith, grow to look more like Jesus [appropriation talk, follow-up talk]
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| What this shows us about Jesus:* Jesus extends his invitation to follow him and to be a part of his plan for the world (now and eternally) to everyone, including the good and the bad.
* Jesus expects those who respond to his invitation to either accept it or reject it, but if you accept it you cannot just stay the same, you must participate in Jesus’ plan for your life (see also 2 Pet. 1:10).
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| What this has to do with our life:* An invitation requires a response. Only yes or no are the appropriate responses.
* By nature, we tend to reject God’s plans for our lives.
* Entrance into God’s kingdom has nothing to do with us being good or bad, entry is free to all!
* Once you enter God’s kingdom, you are expected to participate and see how God wants to change you.
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| Relevant technical details:* Kingdom of heaven (v.2) = The way the world is supposed to be. God is working to restore the world to be this way through God’s people.
* Wedding feast (v.2) = The invitation is to a party, a joyful party! Repentance is a call to joy.
* Farm / Business (v.5) = Note that the rejection of the invitation was for decent and important things, not overt and wild sin. Far too often YL talks over-emphasize and almost idolize “wild sin” when “every day” sin is the reality of the majority of our sin (and much more deathly subtle, especially in later discipleship too).
* Killing, burning, etc. (vv.6-8) = Don’t get too caught up in this part in your talk, this would have made more sense to Jesus’ original hearers (regarding the prophets and the coming destruction of Jerusalem) but is less relevant for our contemporary hearers who are hearing it for the first time.
* Wedding garment (v.11) = This parable uses a lot of exaggeration to make its point, exaggeration (hyperbole) is a tool of the genre of parables, there is no need to try to equate a wedding garment to the “wedding feast of the Lamb” in Revelation or anything like that.
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| Possible illustrations:* Invitation: Find an invitation to an event you attended, or perhaps a high school prom/homecoming dance invitation on video, or even a wedding proposal video. The idea is to highlight an invitation and the required response. A response of “maybe” or “kinda” doesn’t answer the question, only “yes” or “no.”
* Jacket/Coat: It is not about style, but taking off the “old self” and putting on the “new self” (see Eph. 4:22-24). *Note*: I believe strongly that we owe it to kids to tell them what it means to follow Jesus in our explanation of the gospel. I think it is unwise, maybe even untruthful, to tell them this only after coming to Christ.
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*For more details see ylhelp.com*

Matthew 22 (ESV)

**The Parable of the Wedding Feast**

**22**And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, **2**“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, **3**and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. **4**Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.” ’ **5**But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, **6**while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. **7**The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. **8**Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. **9**Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ **10**And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

**11**“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. **12**And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. **13**Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ **14**For many are called, but few are chosen.”

**Paying Taxes to Caesar**

**15**Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. **16**And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. **17**Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” **18**But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? **19**Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. **20**And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” **21**They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” **22**When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

**Sadducees Ask About the Resurrection**

**23**The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question, **24**saying, “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.’ **25**Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and having no offspring left his wife to his brother. **26**So too the second and third, down to the seventh. **27**After them all, the woman died. **28**In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her.”

**29**But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. **30**For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. **31**And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: **32**‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.” **33**And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

**The Great Commandment**

**34**But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. **35**And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. **36**“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” **37**And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **38**This is the great and first commandment. **39**And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **40**On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

**Whose Son Is the Christ?**

**41**Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, **42**saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” **43**He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

 **44** “ ‘The Lord said to my Lord,

 “Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet” ’?

**45**If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?” **46**And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.