

The Upside Down Unpredictable and Surprisingly Awesome

Matthew 22:1-14

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

Who is in, and who is out?

Kingdom of Heaven is uniquely _____
yet decidedly _____

Jesus changed the whole experience

The old way - _____

The new Way - _____

The Son is Jesus, the Bride is the Church, and the invitation is wide open!

A great feast in celebration of what the Son is doing

Honor the King with your _____

Honor the King with your _____

But what about...?

verse 7 - "The king was enraged..."

verse 13 - "...throw him outside, into the darkness..."

Facing the tension of Love & Judgment

We must pay attention! *"But they paid no attention and went off..."*

Celebration of Christ over _____ and _____

Put on the right clothes! *Colossians 3:12-15*

And over all these virtues put on LOVE



ENCOUNTER GROUPS

Spiritual Growth Small Groups at Emmanuel Reformed Church

Getting Started

Pastor Dirk talked about the Kingdom being both inclusive and demanding. Would you say your spiritual background leaned more toward inclusive or demanding? How has your view changed over time?

The Great Banquet

Reread **Matthew 22:1-14**

Relating to the scripture and the sermon from Sunday, who do you identify each character in the story as today?

King Son King's servants

The Invited People on the streets

The guests The improperly dressed

What questions does this raise for you? Discuss as a group.

How do you see this parable playing out in America today?

Going Deeper

This section ends with the words “few are chosen.” It is an interesting shift from invitation to selection. Read **Romans 8:29-32** and discuss what you see in this verse related to being invited and chosen. What else do you see in these verses?

Two weeks ago Encounter Groups considered the relational actions of **Colossians 3:12-15**. What do you think it looks like to be clothed as described in this passage, how can you increase your wardrobe, and what will it look like lived out at Emmanuel Reformed Church?

Application

How can you ensure that celebration of God is always over recreation and occupation in your life?