CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Matthew Chapter 22 — The Wedding Feast, Questions of Authority, and the Greatest Commandment

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Matthew Chapter 21 ended with the religious leaders wanting to arrest Jesus.

They knew His parables were about them.

But they were afraid of the crowds.

Matthew Chapter 22 continues the conflict.

It all takes place in the temple courts during the last week before Jesus' death.

Jesus begins with another parable.

A king prepares a wedding banquet for his son.

He invites guests.

But they refuse to come.

Some ignore the invitation.

Others kill the king's servants.

So the king sends his servants into the streets to invite anyone they can find.

The hall is filled.

But one man comes without wedding clothes and is thrown out.

Then Jesus' enemies come with three trick questions.

The Pharisees and Herodians ask about paying taxes to Caesar.

The Sadducees ask about marriage in the resurrection.

An expert in the law asks which commandment is the greatest.

Each time, Jesus answers with wisdom no one can match.

“Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.”

“He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart... Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Finally, Jesus asks them a question.

“Whose son is the Christ?”

If He is David's son, why does David call Him **Lord**?

No one can answer.

And from that day on, no one dares to ask Him any more questions.

Matthew 22 therefore shows two great truths:

God graciously invites everyone to His Son's wedding feast, but each person must come on His terms.

And:

Jesus is wiser than all His enemies, and He is both David's son and David's Lord.

The central truth of Matthew 22 is:

God invites all people to the wedding feast of His Son, calls them to give Him their whole hearts in love, and reveals Jesus as the living Lord who is both the Son of David and the Lord of David.

I. AGAIN IN PARABLES

Matthew 22:1 — Jesus Spoke to Them

“Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying,”

Jesus **spoke to them again in parables.**

Them refers to the chief priests and Pharisees from the end of Matthew 21.

They had just tried to arrest Him.

But Jesus kept teaching.

He kept warning them.

He kept inviting them.

Cross References

Matthew 13:34

> Jesus used stories to tell all these things to the people. He always used stories to teach people.

Psalm 78:2

> I will speak using stories. I will tell things that have been secret since long ago.

Mark 12:1

> Jesus began to use stories to teach the people.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus keeps speaking truth, even to those who oppose Him.

II. A WEDDING BANQUET

Matthew 22:2 — For His Son

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

The kingdom of heaven is like a king.

The king represents God.

Who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.

The son represents Jesus.

A royal wedding was the greatest celebration in the ancient world.

It could last for days.

To be invited was a great honor.

In the Bible, God's salvation is often pictured as a great feast.

Isaiah spoke of a banquet God would prepare for all peoples.

Revelation speaks of **the wedding supper of the Lamb.**

Cross References

Isaiah 25:6

> The LORD who commands armies will prepare a feast on this mountain for all people. It will be a feast with the best food and wine.

Revelation 19:9

> Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who have been invited to the wedding meal of the Lamb!”

Luke 14:16

> Jesus said to him, “A man gave a big banquet and invited many people.”

Spiritual Principle

God's kingdom is a joyful celebration of His Son.

III. THEY REFUSED TO COME

Matthew 22:3 — The Invited Guests

“He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet, but they refused to come.”

In those days, guests were invited twice.

First, they were told the date.

Then, when the feast was ready, servants came to tell them it was time.

The guests in the story had already been invited.

They knew the feast was coming.

But when the servants came, **they refused to come.**

The invited guests represent Israel and especially its religious leaders.

God had invited them through the prophets.

Now the feast was ready.

But they refused.

Cross References

Luke 14:17

> When it was time to eat, the man sent his servant to tell the guests, “Come. Everything is ready.”

Proverbs 1:24

> I called, but you refused to listen. I held out my hand, but you paid no attention.

Jeremiah 35:15

> I sent all My servants the prophets to you again and again... But you have not listened to Me.

Spiritual Warning

It is possible to be invited and still refuse to come.

IV. EVERYTHING IS READY

Matthew 22:4 — Come to the Wedding Banquet

“Then he sent more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited: I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and fattened cattle are butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’”

The king was patient.

He **sent more servants.**

He gave them a warm message.

I have prepared my dinner.

My oxen and fattened cattle are butchered.

Everything is ready.

Come.

The best food had been prepared.

Nothing was missing.

The king had done everything.

The guests only needed to come.

This is a picture of the gospel.

God has prepared everything through Jesus.

We are simply invited to come.

Cross References

Proverbs 9:2

> She has prepared her meat and wine and set her table.

Luke 15:23

And get our fat calf and kill it so we can have a big feast and celebrate.

Zephaniah 1:7

> Be silent before the Lord GOD, because the LORD's day of judging is coming soon. The LORD has prepared a sacrifice.

Spiritual Principle

God has prepared everything; we are invited to come.

V. THEY PAID NO ATTENTION

Matthew 22:5 — One to His Field, Another to His Business

“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business.”

Some guests **paid no attention.**

They did not argue.

They did not attack.

They just did not care.

One went to his field.

Another to his business.

These were not evil things.

Work is good.

But they let ordinary things keep them from the king's invitation.

They treated the king's feast as less important than their daily routine.

Cross References

Luke 14:18

> But all the guests made excuses. The first one said, “I have just bought a field, and I must go look at it. Please excuse me.”

Haggai 1:9

> You look for much, but you find little... Why? Because My Temple is still in ruins, while each of you is busy working on your own house.

Luke 17:28

It will be the same as during the time of Lot. People were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, and building.

Spiritual Warning

Indifference can be as dangerous as open rebellion.

Application

People today ignore God's invitation because of:

- Work.
- Money.
- Busyness.
- Entertainment.
- Comfort.
- Thinking there will be time later.

VI. THEY KILLED THE SERVANTS

Matthew 22:6 — Mistreated and Killed

“The rest seized his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.”

Other guests were worse.

They seized his servants.

Mistreated them.

Killed them.

This was shocking.

Who would kill someone for delivering a wedding invitation?

But this is how God's prophets had been treated.

And it is how Jesus' apostles would soon be treated.

Cross References

1 Thessalonians 2:15

They killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and they forced us to leave that country.

Acts 7:52

> Your ancestors tried to hurt every prophet who ever lived. Those prophets said long ago that the One who is good would come, but your ancestors killed them.

Jeremiah 26:23

> They brought Uriah back from Egypt and took him to King Jehoiakim, who had him killed with a sword.

Spiritual Warning

Some people do not just reject God's invitation; they attack those who bring it.

VII. THE KING WAS FURIOUS

Matthew 22:7 — Burned Their City

“The king was furious. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.”

The king was furious.

His patience had been rejected.

His servants had been killed.

He sent his army.

He destroyed those murderers.

He burned their city.

Many see this as a prophecy of what happened to Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

About forty years after Jesus spoke these words, the Roman army destroyed Jerusalem and burned the temple.

Cross References

2 Kings 25:9

> He set fire to the Temple of the LORD, the palace, and all the houses of Jerusalem.

Daniel 9:26

> The people of the leader who is to come will destroy the city and the holy place.

Luke 19:27

> But bring here my enemies, who did not want me to be king.

Spiritual Principle

God is patient, but His patience has an end.

VIII. NOT WORTHY

Matthew 22:8 — The Banquet Is Ready

“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited were not worthy.’”

The king's feast would not be canceled.

The wedding banquet is ready.

But **those I invited were not worthy.**

They were not unworthy because they were sinners.

Everyone is a sinner.

They were unworthy because they **refused** the invitation.

They showed by their choices that they did not want the king or his son.

Cross References

Matthew 10:37

> Those who love their father or mother more than they love Me are not worthy to be My followers.

Luke 14:24

> I tell you, none of those whom I invited first will eat with me.

Revelation 3:4

> But you have a few there in Sardis who have kept their clothes clean, and they will walk with Me and wear white clothes, because they are worthy.

Spiritual Principle

Rejecting God's invitation shows we do not value what He offers.

IX. INVITE ANYONE YOU FIND

Matthew 22:9 — The Street Corners

“So go to the street corners and invite anyone you find.”

Now the king sent his servants somewhere new.

Go to the street corners.

These were the places where roads left the city.

Where travelers, strangers, and the poor gathered.

Invite anyone you find.

No one was excluded.

This is a picture of the gospel going to everyone.

Sinners.

Outcasts.

Gentiles.

Anyone who would come.

Cross References

Luke 14:21

> Go at once into the streets and alleys of the town, and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.

Luke 14:23

> Go out to the roads and country lanes, and tell the people there to come so my house will be full.

Isaiah 55:1

> All you who are thirsty, come and drink. Those of you who do not have money, come, buy and eat!

Spiritual Principle

God's invitation is open to everyone.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When the honored guests refused, the King opened His doors to the whole world.

X. BOTH GOOD AND BAD

Matthew 22:10 — The Hall Was Filled

“So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.”

The servants obeyed.

They **gathered all the people they could find.**

Both good and bad.

God's invitation goes out to all kinds of people.

Moral people and immoral people.

Religious people and irreligious people.

No one comes because they are good enough.

They come because they are invited.

And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

God's house will be full.

Cross References

Matthew 13:47

> Also, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was put into the lake and caught many different kinds of fish.

Matthew 13:30

> Let the weeds and the wheat grow together until the harvest time.

Matthew 25:10

> The bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast.

Spiritual Principle

God's kingdom will be filled with people from every background.

XI. NO WEDDING CLOTHES

Matthew 22:11 — The King Saw Him

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.”

The king came in to see the guests.

He looked at each one.

He noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.

Some believe that in royal weddings, the king provided clothing for the guests.

If so, this man had refused what the king freely offered.

He wanted to come to the feast on his own terms.

In the Bible, clothing is often a picture of righteousness.

Isaiah spoke of being clothed with garments of salvation.

Revelation describes fine linen as the righteous acts of God's people.

To be ready for God's feast, we must be clothed in the righteousness God gives through Jesus.

Cross References

Isaiah 61:10

> The LORD makes me very happy. All that I am rejoices in my God. He has covered me with clothes of salvation and wrapped me with a coat of goodness.

Revelation 19:8

> Fine linen, bright and clean, was given to her to wear. (The fine linen means the good things done by God's holy people.)

Zephaniah 1:8

> On the day of the LORD's sacrifice, I will punish the officers and the king's sons and all who wear foreign clothes.

Spiritual Principle

We must come to God on His terms, clothed in the righteousness He provides.

XII. HE WAS SPEECHLESS

Matthew 22:12 — How Did You Get In?

“He asked, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless.”

The king spoke kindly.

“Friend.”

Then he asked:

“How did you get in here without wedding clothes?”

The man was speechless.

He had no excuse.

No answer.

He knew he was wrong.

On the day of judgment, no one will have an excuse before God.

Cross References

Job 40:4

> I am not worthy. I cannot answer You anything, so I will put my hand over my mouth.

Romans 3:19

> We know that the law's commands are for those who have the law. This stops all excuses and brings the whole world under God's judgment.

Matthew 25:12

> But the bridegroom answered, “I tell you the truth, I don't know you.”

Spiritual Warning

No one will have an excuse before God on the day of judgment.

XIII. THROWN OUTSIDE

Matthew 22:13 — Into the Darkness

“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.’”

The king gave a terrible order.

Tie him hand and foot.

Throw him outside, into the darkness.

Inside, the wedding hall was bright and full of joy.

Outside was darkness.

Where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

This is one of Jesus' descriptions of hell.

It is sorrow, regret, and separation from God's joy.

Cross References

Matthew 8:12

> But those people who should have the kingdom will be thrown outside into the darkness, where people will cry and grind their teeth with pain.

Matthew 25:30

> Throw that useless servant outside into the darkness, where people will cry and grind their teeth with pain.

Jude 1:13

> They are like wandering stars. A place in the blackest darkness has been kept for them forever.

Spiritual Warning

Being near the feast is not the same as being ready for the feast.

XIV. MANY ARE CALLED

Matthew 22:14 — But Few Are Chosen

“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Jesus summed up the parable.

Many are called.

God's invitation goes out to many people.

But few are chosen.

Not everyone who hears the invitation truly responds.

Some refuse.

Some ignore it.

Some try to come on their own terms.

Those who are **chosen** are those who receive God's invitation and come on His terms, clothed in His righteousness.

God's call and our response go together.

Cross References

Romans 8:30

> God planned for them to be like His Son, and those He planned to be like His Son, He also called.

Revelation 17:14

> With Him will be His called, chosen, and faithful followers.

2 Peter 1:10

> My brothers and sisters, try hard to be certain that you really are called and chosen by God.

Spiritual Principle

God's invitation is wide, but each person must truly respond.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The invitation is free, but it is not cheap; we must come clothed in what the King provides.

XV. A PLAN TO TRAP JESUS

Matthew 22:15 — In His Words

“Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap Jesus in His words.”

The parables had exposed the Pharisees.

So **they went out** and **laid plans.**

Their goal was **to trap Jesus in His words.**

They wanted Him to say something that would get Him in trouble with the people or with Rome.

Cross References

Mark 12:13

> Later, the Jewish leaders sent some Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to trap Him in saying something wrong.

Luke 11:53

> When Jesus left, the teachers of the law and the Pharisees began to cause Him a lot of trouble, asking Him questions about many things.

Psalm 56:5

> All day long they twist my words. All their evil plans are against me.

Spiritual Warning

Those who oppose truth often try to trap the truth-teller.

XVI. THE HERODIANS

Matthew 22:16 — Flattery

“They sent their disciples to Him along with the Herodians. ‘Teacher,’ they said, ‘we know that You are a man of integrity and that You teach the way of God in truth. You aren't swayed by others because You pay no attention to who they are.’”

The Pharisees sent **their disciples** along with **the Herodians.**

The **Herodians** supported Herod's family and Roman rule.

The **Pharisees** resented Roman rule.

These two groups were usually enemies.

But they joined together against Jesus.

They began with flattery.

“We know that You are a man of integrity.”

“You teach the way of God in truth.”

“You aren't swayed by others.”

Everything they said was true.

But they did not believe it.

They were using kind words to set a trap.

Cross References

Mark 3:6

> Then the Pharisees left and began making plans with the Herodians about a way to kill Jesus.

Mark 12:14

> They came to Him and said, “Teacher, we know that You are an honest man. You are not afraid of what other people think about You.”

Luke 20:21

> So the spies asked Jesus, “Teacher, we know that what You say and teach is true. You pay no attention to who people are, and You always teach the truth about God's way.”

Spiritual Warning

Flattery is often a trap in disguise.

XVII. TAXES TO CAESAR

Matthew 22:17 — Is It Right or Not?

“Tell us then, what is Your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

Here was the trap.

Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?

This tax was paid directly to the Roman emperor.

Many Jews hated it.

It reminded them that they were ruled by foreigners.

If Jesus said **yes**, the people would turn against Him for supporting Rome.

If Jesus said **no**, the Herodians could report Him to the Romans as a rebel.

It seemed like there was no way out.

Cross References

Luke 20:22

> Tell us, is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?

Romans 13:7

Pay everyone what you owe. If you owe any kind of tax, pay it.

Luke 23:2

> They began to accuse Jesus, saying, “We caught this man telling things that were confusing our people. He says we should not pay taxes to Caesar.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' wisdom can answer every trap the enemy sets.

XVIII. YOU HYPOCRITES

Matthew 22:18 — Knowing Their Evil Intent

“But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, ‘You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap Me?’”

Jesus **knew their evil intent.**

Their flattery did not fool Him.

“You hypocrites.”

They pretended to be sincere.

But they were actors.

“Why are you trying to trap Me?”

Jesus exposed their plan.

Cross References

Mark 12:15

> But knowing what these men were really trying to do, Jesus said to them, “Why are you trying to trap Me?”

Luke 20:23

> But Jesus, knowing they were trying to trick Him, said...

John 2:25

> He did not need anyone to tell Him about people, because He knew what was in people's minds.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus sees through every mask.

XIX. SHOW ME THE COIN

Matthew 22:19 — A Denarius

“Show Me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought Him a denarius,

Jesus asked for **the coin used for paying the tax.**

They brought Him a denarius.

Notice that Jesus did not have one.

But they did.

The very people who claimed to be troubled by Roman taxes were carrying Roman coins.

Cross References

Mark 12:16

> They gave Jesus a coin.

Luke 20:24

> Show Me a coin.

Matthew 20:2

> The man agreed to pay the workers one silver coin for working that day.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus uses simple, everyday things to reveal deep truths.

XX. WHOSE IMAGE?

Matthew 22:20 — And Whose Inscription?

“and He asked them, ‘Whose image is this? And whose inscription?’”

Jesus asked two questions.

“Whose image is this?”

“And whose inscription?”

The denarius had the face of the Roman emperor, **Tiberius Caesar.**

The words on it said something like:

“Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus.”

The coin bore Caesar's image.

It belonged to Caesar.

But Jesus was also pointing to something deeper.

Human beings are made **in the image of God.**

Cross References

Genesis 1:27

> So God created human beings in His image. In the image of God He created them.

Mark 12:16

> Jesus asked, “Whose image and name are on the coin?”

Luke 20:24

> Whose image and name are on it?

Spiritual Principle

What bears an image belongs to the one whose image it bears.

XXI. GIVE TO CAESAR AND TO GOD

Matthew 22:21 — What Is Caesar's and What Is God's

“‘Caesar's,’ they replied. Then He said to them, ‘Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.’”

They answered:

“Caesar's.”

Then Jesus gave one of the wisest answers ever spoken.

“Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's.”

The coin has Caesar's image.

Give it back to him.

It is right to pay taxes and honor earthly authorities.

“And to God what is God's.”

You bear God's image.

So give yourself to God.

Caesar can have the coin.

But God must have your heart, your life, your whole self.

Cross References

Romans 13:1

> Everyone must obey the people who rule over them. All authority comes from God.

1 Peter 2:17

> Show respect for all people. Love the brothers and sisters of God's family. Respect God. Honor the king.

Mark 12:17

> Then Jesus said to them, “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and give to God the things that are God's.”

Spiritual Principle

Honor earthly authority, but give your ultimate loyalty to God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The coin bears Caesar's image, so give it to Caesar; you bear God's image, so give yourself to God.

XXII. THEY WERE AMAZED

Matthew 22:22 — They Went Away

“When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left Him and went away.”

They were amazed.

They had no answer.

Jesus had escaped their trap.

And He had taught them a deep truth.

So they left Him and went away.

They were amazed, but they did not believe.

They walked away.

Cross References

Luke 20:26

> So they were not able to trap Jesus in anything He said in front of the people. And being amazed at His answer, they became silent.

John 7:46

> The guards answered, “No one ever spoke the way this man speaks!”

Acts 4:13

> The leaders saw that Peter and John were not afraid to speak... They were amazed.

Spiritual Warning

Being amazed at Jesus is not the same as following Jesus.

XXIII. THE SADDUCEES

Matthew 22:23 — No Resurrection

“That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him with a question.”

That same day, another group came.

The Sadducees.

They were wealthy and powerful.

Many of the priests, including the high priest, were Sadducees.

They accepted only the first five books of the Bible as fully authoritative.

And they **said there is no resurrection.**

They also did not believe in angels or spirits.

They came with a question meant to make the resurrection look foolish.

Cross References

Acts 23:8

> The Sadducees believe that people will not rise from the dead and that there are no angels or spirits. But the Pharisees believe in them all.

Mark 12:18

Then some Sadducees came to Jesus. Sadducees believe that people will not rise from the dead.

Luke 20:27

Some Sadducees, who believed people would not rise from the dead, came to Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

Some people use questions to mock the truth instead of seeking it.

XXIV. MOSES' LAW

Matthew 22:24 — Raise Up Offspring

“‘Teacher,’ they said, ‘Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for him.’”

The Sadducees quoted Moses.

The law said that if a man died without children, his brother should marry the widow.

Their first son would carry on the dead man's name.

This was to protect the widow and keep the family line alive.

Ruth and Boaz are an example of this kind of marriage.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 25:5

If two brothers are living together and one of them dies without having a son, his widow must not marry someone outside her husband's family. Her husband's brother must marry her.

Genesis 38:8

Then Judah said to Onan, “Go and have physical relations with your dead brother's wife. You must do this to give your brother descendants.”

Ruth 4:5

Boaz said, “When you buy the land from Naomi, you must also marry Ruth, the Moabite, the dead man's wife. That way, the land will stay in the dead man's name.”

Spiritual Principle

God's law cared for widows and families.

XXV. SEVEN BROTHERS

Matthew 22:25 — The First One Died

“Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother.”

The Sadducees told a story.

Seven brothers.

The first one married and died.

He had no children.

So **he left his wife to his brother.**

This story may have been made up.

It was meant to make the resurrection look ridiculous.

Cross References

Ruth 4:10

> I am also taking Ruth, the Moabite who was the wife of Mahlon, as my wife. I am doing this so her dead husband's property will stay in his name.

Genesis 38:9

> But Onan knew that the children would not belong to him.

Mark 12:20

> There were seven brothers. The first brother married and died, leaving no children.

Spiritual Principle

God's truth is not threatened by clever stories.

XXVI. DOWN TO THE SEVENTH

Matthew 22:26 — The Same Thing Happened

“The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh.”

The story continued.

The second brother married her and died.

The third too.

All the way **to the seventh.**

Seven brothers.

One wife.

No children.

Cross References

Mark 12:21

> So the second brother married the widow, but he also died and had no children. The same thing happened with the third brother.

Luke 20:31

> And the third brother married her. The same thing happened with all seven brothers. They died and had no children.

Mark 12:22

> All seven brothers married her and died, and none of the brothers had any children.

Spiritual Principle

Absurd questions often come from a refusal to believe.

XXVII. FINALLY THE WOMAN DIED

Matthew 22:27 — The End of the Story

“Finally, the woman died.”

Finally, the woman died.

Death comes to everyone.

The story ends with everyone in the grave.

For the Sadducees, that was the end.

There was nothing after death.

Cross References

Luke 20:32

Finally, the woman died too.

Ecclesiastes 9:3

> This is what is wrong with everything that happens here on earth: everyone has the same end.

Job 30:23

> I know You will bring me down to death, to the place where all living people must go.

Spiritual Principle

Death is certain, but it is not the end.

XXVIII. WHOSE WIFE WILL SHE BE?

Matthew 22:28 — At the Resurrection

“Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?”

Here was their trick question.

At the resurrection, whose wife will she be?

All of them were married to her.

They thought this proved the resurrection was foolish.

If people rise from the dead, this woman would have seven husbands.

It would be a mess.

So, they argued, there must be no resurrection.

Cross References

Mark 12:23

> Since all seven brothers had married her, when people rise from the dead, whose wife will she be?

Luke 20:33

> Since all seven brothers had married her, whose wife will she be when people rise from the dead?

1 Corinthians 15:35

> But someone may ask, “How are the dead raised? What kind of body will they have?”

Spiritual Principle

We cannot understand heaven by thinking only in earthly terms.

XXIX. YOU ARE IN ERROR

Matthew 22:29 — The Scriptures and the Power of God

“Jesus replied, ‘You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.’”

Jesus answered directly.

“You are in error.”

They were wrong.

And Jesus told them why.

“You do not know the Scriptures.”

They read the Scriptures, but they did not understand them.

“Or the power of God.”

They could not imagine how God could raise the dead and make a new kind of life.

They made God too small.

Cross References

Mark 12:24

> Jesus answered, “Why don't you understand? Don't you know what the Scriptures say, and don't you know about the power of God?”

John 20:9

> They did not yet understand from the Scriptures that Jesus must rise from the dead.

Luke 24:25

> Then Jesus said to them, “You are foolish and slow to believe everything the prophets said.”

Spiritual Principle

Error comes from not knowing God's Word and not trusting God's power.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Most wrong ideas about God come from a small view of Scripture or a small view of His power.

XXX. LIKE THE ANGELS

Matthew 22:30 — Neither Marry nor Are Given in Marriage

“At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.”

Jesus explained.

At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage.

Life after the resurrection is not just a continuation of life on earth.

It is a new kind of life.

Marriage is a wonderful gift for this life.

But in the resurrection, there will be no need for new marriages.

No one will die, so there will be no need to have children to carry on a family name.

They will be like the angels in heaven.

This does not mean people become angels.

It means they will be like angels in this way: they will not marry and they will not die.

Also notice that Jesus mentioned angels.

The Sadducees did not believe in angels.

Jesus answered that error too.

Cross References

Mark 12:25

> When people rise from the dead, they will not marry, nor will they be given to someone to marry. They will be like the angels in heaven.

Luke 20:36

> In that life they are like angels and cannot die. They are children of God, because they have been raised from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:42

> It is the same with the dead who are raised to life. The body that is planted will ruin and decay, but it is raised to a life that cannot be destroyed.

Spiritual Principle

The resurrection life will be far greater than anything we know now.

XXXI. HAVE YOU NOT READ?

Matthew 22:31 — What God Said to You

“But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you,”

Jesus now proved the resurrection from Scripture.

He chose a passage from Exodus.

The Sadducees accepted the books of Moses.

So Jesus used their own Scriptures.

Have you not read what God said to you?

Notice the words **to you.**

God's Word was not just for people long ago.

It was spoken to them.

And it is spoken to us.

Cross References

Mark 12:26

> Surely you have read what God said about people rising from the dead. In the book in which Moses wrote about the burning bush...

Luke 20:37

> Even Moses clearly showed that the dead are raised to life. When he wrote about the burning bush...

Exodus 3:2

> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire coming out of a bush.

Spiritual Principle

God's Word speaks to every generation.

XXXII. THE GOD OF THE LIVING

Matthew 22:32 — Not the God of the Dead

“‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”

Jesus quoted God's words to Moses at the burning bush.

“I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

Notice the word **am.**

God did not say, **“I was their God.”**

He said, **“I am.”**

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had been dead for hundreds of years when God spoke to Moses.

Yet God was still their God.

That means they were still alive to Him.

He is not the God of the dead but of the living.

God's relationship with His people does not end at death.

And one day, He will raise their bodies too.

Cross References

Exodus 3:6

> I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

Mark 12:27

> God is the God of the living, not the dead. You Sadducees are very wrong.

Luke 20:38

> God is the God of the living, not the dead, because all people are alive to Him.

Spiritual Principle

Those who belong to God are alive to Him forever.

Key Truth

Death cannot break the relationship between God and His people.

XXXIII. ASTONISHED AT HIS TEACHING

Matthew 22:33 — The Crowds Heard

“When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.”

The crowds were listening.

They were astonished.

Jesus had answered the Sadducees using one small word in a passage they knew well.

No one had ever seen it this way.

Cross References

Matthew 7:28

> When Jesus finished saying these things, the people were amazed at His teaching.

Mark 1:22

> The people were amazed at His teaching, because He taught like a person who had authority.

Luke 4:32

> They were amazed at His teaching, because He spoke with authority.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus reveals depths in Scripture that no one else can see.

XXXIV. THE PHARISEES GATHERED

Matthew 22:34 — The Sadducees Silenced

“Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.”

The Pharisees heard that Jesus **had silenced the Sadducees.**

The word **silenced** means **muzzled.**

The Pharisees disagreed with the Sadducees about the resurrection.

They may have been pleased that Jesus defeated them.

But they still opposed Jesus.

So **they got together** to try again.

Cross References

Mark 12:28

> One of the teachers of the law came and heard Jesus arguing with the Sadducees. Seeing that Jesus gave good answers to their questions, he asked Jesus...

Acts 23:7

> When Paul said this, there was an argument between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the group was divided.

Psalm 2:2

> The kings of the earth prepare to fight, and their leaders make plans together against the LORD and His appointed one.

Spiritual Warning

Opposition to Jesus keeps finding new ways to attack.

XXXV. AN EXPERT IN THE LAW

Matthew 22:35 — Testing Jesus

“One of them, an expert in the law, tested Him with this question:”

One of them, an **expert in the law**, came forward.

He was a scholar who studied God's law in detail.

He **tested** Jesus.

Mark tells us that this man was impressed by Jesus' answer to the Sadducees.

And after hearing Jesus' answer, he responded wisely.

Jesus told him he was **not far from the kingdom of God.**

Cross References

Luke 10:25

> Then an expert on the law stood up to test Jesus, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to get life forever?”

Luke 11:54

> They were trying to catch Him saying something wrong.

Mark 10:2

Some Pharisees came to Jesus and tried to trick Him.

Spiritual Principle

Even a testing question can lead to life-changing truth.

XXXVI. THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Matthew 22:36 — Which Is the Greatest?

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

The expert asked:

“Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jewish teachers counted 613 commands in the Law of Moses.

They often debated which were the most important.

This was a real question.

But it was also a test.

Any answer Jesus gave could be argued with.

Cross References

Mark 12:28

> He asked Jesus, “Which of the commands is most important?”

Luke 10:25

> Teacher, what must I do to get life forever?

Micah 6:8

> The LORD has told you what is good. He has told you what He wants from you: Do what is right to other people. Love being kind to others. And live humbly, trusting your God.

Spiritual Principle

God's law has a heart, and Jesus reveals it.

XXXVII. LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD

Matthew 22:37 — With All Your Heart, Soul, and Mind

“Jesus replied: ‘“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”’”

Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:5.

This was part of the **Shema**, the prayer every faithful Jew said twice a day.

“Love the Lord your God.”

The greatest command is not a rule.

It is a relationship.

It is love.

With all your heart.

Your desires and emotions.

With all your soul.

Your life and your inner being.

With all your mind.

Your thoughts and understanding.

God does not want part of us.

He wants all of us.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 6:5

> Love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

Mark 12:30

> Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.

Luke 10:27

> The man answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.”

Spiritual Principle

God wants our whole selves, not just part of us.

Application

Loving God with all of yourself means:

- **Heart** — desiring Him above everything.
- **Soul** — giving Him your whole life.
- **Mind** — thinking about Him and learning His Word.
- **Strength** — serving Him with your energy.

XXXVIII. THE FIRST AND GREATEST

Matthew 22:38 — The Greatest Commandment

“This is the first and greatest commandment.”

This is the first and greatest commandment.

Loving God comes first.

Every other command flows from this one.

If we love God with all our heart, we will want to obey Him in everything else.

This command also connects to the first of the Ten Commandments:

“You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Cross References

Mark 12:29

> Jesus answered, “The most important command is this: ‘Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord.’”

Exodus 20:3

> You must not have any other gods except Me.

1 Corinthians 8:6

> But for us there is only one God, our Father. All things came from Him, and we live for Him.

Spiritual Principle

Love for God is the foundation of everything else.

XXXIX. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Matthew 22:39 — The Second Is Like It

“And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

The expert asked for one commandment.

Jesus gave two.

The second is like it.

Loving God and loving people cannot be separated.

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus quoted Leviticus 19:18.

We naturally care for ourselves.

We feed ourselves.

We protect ourselves.

We want good things for ourselves.

Jesus calls us to want the same for others.

Cross References

Leviticus 19:18

> Love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am the LORD.

Romans 13:9

> All these commands are really only one rule: “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.”

Galatians 5:14

> The whole law is made complete in this one command: “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.”

Spiritual Principle

Love for God is shown in love for others.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You cannot love God with all your heart and ignore your neighbor's need.

XL. ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS

Matthew 22:40 — Hang on These Two

“All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

All the Law and the Prophets means the whole Old Testament.

Hang on these two commandments.

Like a door hangs on its hinges.

Every command in God's Word is a way of loving God or loving others.

Without love, obedience becomes empty rule-keeping.

Cross References

Romans 13:10

> Love never hurts a neighbor, so loving is obeying all the law.

1 Timothy 1:5

> The purpose of this command is for people to have love, a love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and true faith.

James 2:8

> This royal law is found in the Scriptures: “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” If you obey this law, you are doing right.

Spiritual Principle

Love is the heart of all of God's commands.

XLI. JESUS ASKS A QUESTION

Matthew 22:41 — While the Pharisees Were Gathered

“While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them,”

Jesus had answered every question.

Now **Jesus asked them** a question.

While the Pharisees were gathered together.

They had gathered to trap Him.

Now He would turn the tables.

Cross References

Mark 12:35

> As Jesus was teaching in the Temple, He asked, “Why do the teachers of the law say that the Christ is the son of David?”

Luke 20:41

> Then Jesus said to them, “Why do people say that the Christ is the son of David?”

Isaiah 11:1

> A new branch will grow from the stump of Jesse's family.

Spiritual Principle

The most important question is not what we ask Jesus, but what He asks us.

XLII. WHOSE SON IS THE CHRIST?

Matthew 22:42 — The Son of David

“What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is He?” “The son of David,” they replied.

Jesus asked:

“What do you think about the Christ?”

“Whose son is He?”

This is the most important question anyone can answer.

The Pharisees answered correctly.

“The son of David.”

God had promised David that one of his descendants would rule forever.

Everyone knew the Messiah would come from David's family.

Cross References

2 Samuel 7:12

> When you die and join your ancestors, I will make one of your sons the next king. He will be one of your own sons.

Isaiah 9:7

His power as king will grow, and there will be peace without end. He will rule as king on David's throne.

Romans 1:3

The good news is about God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. As a man, He was born from the family of David.

Spiritual Principle

What we think about Jesus is the most important thing about us.

XLIII. DAVID CALLS HIM LORD

Matthew 22:43 — Speaking by the Spirit

“He said to them, ‘How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls Him “Lord”? For he says,’”

Jesus asked a deeper question.

How is it then that David... calls Him “Lord”?

Notice that Jesus said David spoke **by the Spirit.**

David's words in the psalm were inspired by God.

In that culture, a father would never call his son **“lord.”**

A son honored his father, not the other way around.

So why would David call his own descendant **Lord**?

Cross References

Mark 12:36

David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, said...

Acts 2:34

David was not the one who went up to heaven, but he said, “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit by Me at My right side.’”

2 Samuel 23:2

The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me. His word was on my tongue.

Spiritual Principle

Scripture was written by people who were moved by the Holy Spirit.

XLIV. THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD

Matthew 22:44 — Sit at My Right Hand

“‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I put Your enemies under Your feet.”’”

Jesus quoted Psalm 110:1.

This is the Old Testament verse quoted most often in the New Testament.

The Lord — God the Father.

Said to my Lord — the Messiah, whom David calls his Lord.

“Sit at my right hand.”

The place of highest honor and power.

“Until I put Your enemies under Your feet.”

The Messiah would rule over all His enemies.

Cross References

Psalm 110:1

> The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit by Me at My right side until I put Your enemies under Your control.”

Acts 2:34

> David was not the one who went up to heaven, but he said, “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit by Me at My right side.’”

Hebrews 1:13

> And God never said this to an angel: “Sit by Me at My right side until I put Your enemies under Your control.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus reigns at the Father's right hand.

XLV. HOW CAN HE BE HIS SON?

Matthew 22:45 — David Calls Him Lord

“If then David calls Him ‘Lord,’ how can He be his son?”

Here was the question no one could answer.

If David calls Him Lord, how can He be his son?

The answer is that the Messiah is both.

He is **David's son** because He was born into David's family as a man.

He is **David's Lord** because He is God.

Jesus is fully human and fully divine.

He is the Root and the Offspring of David.

Cross References

Mark 12:37

> David himself calls the Christ “Lord,” so how can the Christ be his son? The large crowd listened to Jesus with pleasure.

Luke 20:44

> David calls the Christ “Lord,” so how can the Christ be his son?

Revelation 22:16

> I am the descendant from the family of David, and I am the bright morning star.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is both the Son of David and the Lord of David.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus came from David's family tree, but He is also the One who planted it.

XLVI. NO ONE DARED TO ASK

Matthew 22:46 — No More Questions

“No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask Him any more questions.”

No one could say a word in reply.

The experts were silent.

From that day on no one dared to ask Him any more questions.

They had tried to trap Him.

Pharisees.

Herodians.

Sadducees.

Experts in the law.

And every time, Jesus answered with perfect wisdom.

Now they gave up asking.

But they did not give up their plan to kill Him.

Cross References

Mark 12:34

> And after that, no one was brave enough to ask Jesus any more questions.

Luke 20:40

> No one was brave enough to ask Him another question.

Luke 14:6

> They could not answer Him.

Spiritual Principle

No one can out-argue the wisdom of God.

Key Truth

They could silence their questions, but they could not silence the truth.

XLVII. FIVE GREAT LESSONS FROM MATTHEW 22

1. God Invites Many, but Few Accept

The parable of the wedding feast shows God's call to salvation.

Only those who are prepared and clothed in Christ's righteousness are accepted.

Principle:

The invitation is free, but we must come on God's terms.

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2. Earthly and Heavenly Responsibilities

We are to honor earthly authorities while giving God our ultimate loyalty.

Principle:

Give Caesar the coin, but give God yourself.

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3. God Is the God of the Living

The resurrection is real, and life with Him goes beyond earthly institutions like marriage.

Principle:

Death is not the end for those who belong to God.

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4. The Greatest Commandment Is Love

Loving God with all that we are and loving others as ourselves sums up all of God's law.

Principle:

Love God fully, and love others truly.

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5. Jesus Is Greater Than David

As both David's son and David's Lord, He is the promised Messiah and King.

Principle:

Jesus is fully human and fully God.

XLVIII. FOUR QUESTIONS IN THE TEMPLE

Question 1 — About Taxes (Verses 15–22)

Asked by: Pharisees and Herodians.

The trap: Support Rome or oppose it.

Jesus' answer: Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.

Question 2 — About the Resurrection (Verses 23–33)

Asked by: Sadducees.

The trap: Make the resurrection look foolish.

Jesus' answer: You do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.

Question 3 — About the Greatest Commandment (Verses 34–40)

Asked by: An expert in the law.

The test: Choose one command above the others.

Jesus' answer: Love God and love your neighbor.

Question 4 — About the Christ (Verses 41–46)

Asked by: Jesus.

The question: Whose son is the Christ?

The answer: He is both David's son and David's Lord.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus answered every question perfectly, and then asked the one question that matters most.

XLIX. RESPONSES TO THE KING'S INVITATION

The parable of the wedding feast shows different responses to God's invitation.

Those Who Refused

They simply would not come.

Those Who Ignored It

They went to their fields and businesses.

Those Who Attacked the Messengers

They killed the king's servants.

Those Who Came Without Wedding Clothes

They wanted the feast on their own terms.

Those Who Came and Were Ready

They accepted the invitation and came on the king's terms.

Key Truth

Everyone who hears the gospel responds in one of these ways.

L. WHAT MATTHEW 22 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

Matthew 22 presents Jesus as:

The King's Son

The wedding feast is held in His honor.

The Wise Teacher

He answered every trap.

The One Who Sees Hearts

He knew their evil intent.

The Defender of Scripture

He showed the Sadducees what God's Word really says.

The Revealer of God's Power

He taught the truth of the resurrection.

The Teacher of Love

He summed up the law in love.

The Son of David

Born into David's family.

The Lord of David

Seated at God's right hand.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Jesus who answers every question is the Answer to the most important question of all.

LI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What does the wedding banquet represent?

It represents God's kingdom and the joyful celebration of His Son, Jesus.

Question 2

Who were the guests who refused to come?

They represent Israel's religious leaders and all who reject God's invitation.

Question 3

What did the king do after the first guests refused?

He sent his servants to invite anyone they could find, both good and bad.

Question 4

What do the wedding clothes represent?

They represent the righteousness God provides through Jesus.

We must come to God on His terms, not our own.

Question 5

What does “many are called, but few are chosen” mean?

God's invitation goes out to many, but not everyone truly responds and comes on His terms.

Question 6

What was the trap in the question about taxes?

If Jesus said yes, the people would turn against Him.

If He said no, the Romans could arrest Him as a rebel.

Question 7

What did Jesus mean by “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's”?

Pay taxes and honor earthly authority, but give your whole self to God, because you bear His image.

Question 8

What did the Sadducees believe?

They did not believe in the resurrection, angels, or spirits.

Question 9

Why were the Sadducees wrong?

Jesus said they did not know the Scriptures or the power of God.

Question 10

What will life be like in the resurrection?

People will not marry or die.

They will be like the angels in that way.

Question 11

How did Jesus prove the resurrection from Exodus 3:6?

God said, **“I am the God of Abraham,”** not **“I was.”**

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were still alive to God.

Question 12

What is the greatest commandment?

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

Question 13

What is the second commandment?

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Question 14

How can the Christ be both David's son and David's Lord?

He was born into David's family as a man, and He is God.

He is fully human and fully divine.

Question 15

What should Matthew 22 change about the way Christians live today?

Matthew 22 should cause believers to live:

- Accepting God's invitation with joy.
- Not letting busyness keep them from God.
- Inviting others to the King's feast.
- Clothed in Christ's righteousness.
- Honoring earthly authorities.
- Giving their whole selves to God.
- Confident in the resurrection.
- Trusting God's Word and His power.
- Loving God with all their heart, soul, and mind.
- Loving their neighbors as themselves.
- Worshiping Jesus as Lord.

LII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Matthew 22 asks several important questions.

Have I Accepted the King's Invitation?

Is Anything in My Life More Important to Me Than God's Invitation?

Am I Inviting Others to the Feast?

Am I Trying to Come to God on My Own Terms?

Am I Clothed in Christ's Righteousness?

Do I Honor the Authorities God Has Placed Over Me?

Have I Given God What Is His — My Whole Self?

Do I Believe in the Resurrection?

Is My View of God's Power Too Small?

Do I Love God with All My Heart, Soul, and Mind?

Do I Love My Neighbor as Myself?

What Do I Think About the Christ?

LIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Bearing His Image”

When Jesus held up the coin, He asked:

“Whose image is this?”

The answer was Caesar.

So the coin belonged to Caesar.

But there was a deeper question hidden in Jesus' words.

Whose image do **you** bear?

The answer is God.

Every human being is made in the image of God.

So every human being belongs to God.

Caesar can have the coin.

But God must have the person.

This creates a powerful principle.

We often give God a part of our lives.

Some time.

Some money.

Some attention.

But Jesus calls us to give God what bears His image.

Ourselves.

All of ourselves.

With all our heart, soul, and mind.

Principle:

The coin bears Caesar's image and belongs to Caesar; you bear God's image and belong to God.

LIV. FINAL APPLICATION

Matthew Chapter 22 takes place in the temple courts during the last week of Jesus' life.

It begins with an invitation.

A king prepares a wedding feast for his son.

Some guests refuse.

Some ignore the invitation.

Some kill the messengers.

So the king opens his doors to everyone.

But even then, one man tries to come on his own terms.

Then Jesus' enemies try to trap Him.

They ask about taxes.

They ask about the resurrection.

They ask about the greatest commandment.

And every time, Jesus answers with perfect wisdom.

Give to God what is God's.

God is the God of the living.

Love God with everything.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Then Jesus asks His own question.

“Whose son is the Christ?”

And no one can answer.

Matthew 22 therefore reminds us:

God's invitation is open to all.

But we must come on His terms.

We bear God's image and belong to Him.

Death is not the end.

Love is the heart of God's law.

And Jesus is both David's son and David's Lord.

The story of Matthew 22 does not end with:

Empty seats at the feast.

Clever traps.

Or silenced enemies.

It ends with:

The Son of David.

Seated at God's right hand.

Ruling until all His enemies are under His feet.

The same invitation still stands:

Come to the feast.

Come on His terms.

Give God yourself.

Trust His power.

Love Him with everything.

Love your neighbor.

Worship Jesus as Lord.

And until He returns:

Keep accepting His invitation.

Keep loving Him.

Keep loving others.

Keep worshiping Him as Lord.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for inviting us to the wedding feast of Your Son.

Thank You that You have prepared everything.

Thank You that Your invitation goes out to everyone, both good and bad.

Forgive us for the times we have ignored Your invitation.

Keep us from letting work, money, or busyness keep us from You.

Help us invite others to Your feast.

Clothe us in the righteousness of Jesus.

Keep us from trying to come to You on our own terms.

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your perfect wisdom.

Help us honor the authorities You have placed over us.

And help us give You what bears Your image — our whole selves.

Thank You that You are the God of the living.

Thank You for the hope of the resurrection.

Forgive us for having a small view of Your Word and Your power.

Teach us to love You with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind.

Teach us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Let love be at the center of all our obedience.

Lord Jesus, we confess that You are the Son of David and the Lord of David.

You are fully human and fully God.

You sit at the Father's right hand.

We worship You as our Lord.

Reign in our hearts until the day every enemy is under Your feet.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’” — Matthew 22:37

Central Truth

God invites all people to the wedding feast of His Son, calls them to give Him their whole hearts in love, and reveals Jesus as the living Lord who is both the Son of David and the Lord of David.

Matthew 22 in One Sentence

Jesus tells of a king's wedding feast that many refuse, answers every trap set by His enemies about taxes, the resurrection, and the greatest commandment, teaches that we must give ourselves to God and love Him and our neighbor fully, and reveals that the Christ is both David's son and David's Lord.