

## **Pastor Roy's Sermon on Matthew 22:1-22 (January 21, 2026)**

***—Below are questions from that lesson to further our understanding—***

1. The sermon describes Ivan the Terrible attempting to be buried in monk's clothing to deceive God. In what subtle ways might we today try to present ourselves as righteous before God while avoiding genuine heart transformation?
2. Jesus spoke in parables so that some would see but not perceive, hear but not understand. Why would God intentionally veil truth from certain people, and what does this reveal about the nature of spiritual receptivity?
3. The invited guests in the parable refused to come to the wedding feast, choosing farms and businesses instead. What modern-day equivalents keep people from responding to God's invitation, and how do we guard against these distractions in our own lives?
4. The king destroyed those who killed his servants and burned their city. How do we reconcile God's patience and love with His righteous anger and judgment against those who reject Him?
5. The servants were told to invite both the bad and the good from the main roads. What does this teach us about who is worthy of receiving the Gospel, and how should this shape our evangelistic efforts?
6. The man without wedding garments was cast into outer darkness despite being at the feast. What is the difference between being physically present in church or religious activities versus being truly clothed in Christ's righteousness?
7. Jesus states that many are called but few are chosen. How does this reality challenge popular contemporary messages about making heaven crowded, and what does it mean for how we understand salvation?
8. The Pharisees tried repeatedly to trap Jesus in His words despite failing every time. What does their persistence in opposing Jesus reveal about the nature of spiritual blindness and religious pride?
9. Jesus instructed to render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. How do we practically live out this dual citizenship as believers who belong to both an earthly nation and the kingdom of heaven?
10. The parable emphasizes that only the righteousness of Christ is acceptable clothing for the wedding feast. How does this truth confront our human tendency to rely on our own good works, religious activities, or moral efforts for acceptance before God?