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A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Starter Question

- ❶ From Sunday's sermon, what did you **like best**, or what **caught your attention most**—and **why**?

Observation—*What do I see?*

- ❷ Read Matthew 22:1–14. According to v. 2, what does the king's wedding feast represent?
- ❸ Does the king want few or many at his feast? What in this parable leads you to that conclusion?
- ❹ According to v. 9-10, does he desire to exclude any? What leads you to that conclusion?
- ❺ According to v. 7, is it OK to refuse the Lord's summons?
- ❻ According to v. 11-14, is it OK to refuse the holy garments God provides (cf. Zechariah 3:3-4)?
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❷ { Read Matthew 7:13-14. **How many** destinations exist for mankind? What are they?
Read John 14:6. What does Jesus **claim** about himself? What **clarity** does Acts 4:12 add?

Interpretation—*What does it mean?*

- ❸ The Bible claims that there is only one way to God. Is there anything **illogical** about that claim?
- ❹ Heaven is God's home (Psalm 11:4-7). Does he have the **right** to restrict access to it (Psalm 24:3)?

Application—*What do I do with this?*

- ❿ In Matthew 22, the invitation to the wedding feast represents the gospel's invitation to heaven. Who do you know personally whos evidences the "verse 5 type" of refusal? The "verse 6 type"?
- ⓫ What would you say to those who **ignore** God's invitation (v. 5)?
- ⓬ What would you say to those who **oppose** God's invitation (v. 6)?

- 1 This is just a starter question. Enjoy it, but don't spend too much time on it.
- 2 Notice that "**the kingdom of heaven** ● may be compared to ● **a king who gave a wedding feast**" —not simply to the wedding feast, but to "a king who gave a wedding feast". So, the "feast" aspect only speaks to the joy and opulence of the event, but don't overlook the elements related to its host. The invited guests did not come out of animosity toward the host (who doesn't like free food!). It was the animosity toward the king that is in view here.
- 3 He invited a slew of guests—and when they refused, he insisted that his servants "go to the **main highways**, and **as many as you find** there, call to the wedding feast" (v. 9).
- 4 No, he desires for any who are found to come. His call was indiscriminate. Come one, come all.
- 5 No—the king's call is a summons, a subpoena.
- 6 No it is not. It is clear that those spontaneously called "from the main highways" would not be expecting a royal feast, and would not be clothed properly for it. It was customary for the host to provide suitable clothing, so the fact that only one of these men was improperly clothed leads to only one conclusion: he too was offered proper clothes, but refused them. ("You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you...have **clothed yourselves with Christ**" (Galatians 3:26–27).
- 7 **Only two** destinations exist for mankind—"destruction" and "life" (Matthew 7:13-14). Jesus claims to be **the only way** to life with the Father in heaven (John 14:6). Acts 4:12 clarifies: the only message we are authorized to give is the uniqueness of Jesus as Savior.
- 8 No, there is nothing illogical about a house (etc.) having only one point of entry. There is nothing in the nature of God's house which requires that he provide multiple entry points. In fact, he is not obligated to provide any! It's his house, and if he doesn't want anyone else to enter, that's his prerogative. And, if he does with for others to have access, it's within his prerogative to say, "this door here is the only way in." In fact, that's exactly what Jesus did say: "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture" (John 10:9).
- 9 Yes, he has every right to do so.
(**We** decide who comes into **our** homes. Does God have less freedom than we?)
- 10 Be prepared with your own answers, but only share yours if all group members come up dry. For the following two questions, you only need work with one or two members' examples.
- 11 Possible points to make to those who **ignore** God:
 - "Tell me about a time when someone ignored you. What did it reveal about how they feel about you? How did that make you feel?"
 - "It seems to me that God, the Bible, and church don't play a very big role in your life. Is that so?"
 - "You mentioned how hurt—even angry—you felt when your friend snubbed you. Have you ever thought about how God may feel about the importance you give to him in your life?"
- 12 Possible points to make to those who **oppose** God:
 - "Tell me about a time when someone was hostile toward you. How did that make you feel?"
 - "I sense some bitterness or hostility in some of the comments you've made about God and religion. Is that so?"
 - "You mentioned how you felt when [name] opposed you. Have you ever thought about how God may respond to your animosity toward him?"

Sermon Outline

What is in store for God's image-bearers? The Scriptures are explicit: live with Yahweh—or die without him. Align with him, desire him, seek him, follow him, cling to him, love him—and reject all other gods, philosophies, ways of living and live—or don't, and die! But what does this mean? What do life and death look like? How long do they last? What will be experienced? Will it be individual or corporate? Is it conscious or unconscious? Is it bodily? Is it spiritual? Is it **good** news—or is it **bad**?

The Good News: Seven “Perfections” of Eternal Life

1. Corporeal Perfection (1 Corinthians 15:35-49)
2. Moral Perfection (2 Peter 1:4)
3. Vocational Perfection (Revelation 5:9-10)
4. Experiential Perfection (2 Corinthians 4:17)
5. Communal Perfection (Revelation 21:3)
6. Emotional Perfection (Revelation 21:4)
7. Temporal Perfection (Matthew 25:46)

The Bad News: Seven “Perfections” of Eternal Death

1. Ongoing corruption/decay/dying/being destroyed
2. Ruined in prison, instead of reigning in paradise
3. Smothered with agony, choking in despair
4. Devoid of all goodness and beauty (hatred/filth/darkness remains)
5. Exiled forever from the Source of all pleasure
6. Fully regretful, tear-filled, sorrowful, bitter, shameful
7. Conscious of their eternal condemnation

Application

- For those who've not yet believed on Christ:
- For those who have repented and do trust in Christ:

Man's destiny is a grand story with a grand ending with our Triune God at the center. Each person's final condition will be unchanging in kind and endless in duration.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

1 Corinthians 15 is the most extensive treatment of resurrection in the Bible.
Let's explore this important chapter so that we can take part in "the resurrection unto life"!

Monday— Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. What is the **content** of the gospel?

Tuesday— Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. What if Christ **didn't** rise from the dead?

Wednesday— Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-28. What is the **connection** between Christ's resurrection and ours?

Thursday— Read 1 Corinthians 15:29-34. What are some **risks** of listening to false teaching?

Friday— Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-49. What **kind of body** will we have in the resurrection?

Saturday— Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. What are some **final thoughts** on this mysterious resurrection?

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]