



cross he has made it possible for our sin to be dealt with.

But we need to be clear that sin is only actually dealt with for those who come to find that Jesus Christ is the answer - they're the people who accept this wonderful wedding invitation.

Imagine that invitation to William and Catherine's wedding had popped through your door. Of course you'd have gone and what joy and excitement you'd have to tell of! But come down to earth - you weren't invited! You are, however, invited to the marriage of the King's Son - to a day that will never end and when sin and sorrow will be no more. Be careful with this Royal Wedding invitation!

[You can read the parable of the wedding banquet in Matthew 22vs1-14](#)

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ARE YOU READY FOR THE ROYAL WEDDING?

The day has come and gone. The Prince has married his Princess and Carrickfergus now has a Baron and a Baroness! What a splendid day when William was finally joined in matrimony to his beloved Catherine. So long in the planning, such meticulous detail, and what an occasion it was. The dress, the flowers, the music, the processions and then the appearance at Buckingham Palace with a flypast old and new. What a magnificent day and we trust that this new Royal marriage will be thoroughly successful and that love long in its blossoming will be long in many fruitful years of faithfulness. May this be a wonderful example of what God-given wedded bliss ought to be!



But suppose for a moment that you had received an invitation to the big day. What would be uppermost in your mind? Would it be the etiquette of such an important occasion, the panic over what you might wear, or simply the practical arrangements of getting there and back and where to stay? There would be much to think about, but one thing wouldn't need a lot of thought - if you found yourself invited to the Royal wedding, you'd be going! No matter the time or expense, somehow you'd manage to be there for that day!

That's why it's so strange that Jesus tells a story about a King who sent out invitations to his son's wedding where the guests did not want to come! Arrangements had been made. The invitations had gone out. The banquet was ready and the King sent out his servants to call the guests to the meal. But one by one those invited made excuse. One guest went off to his farm. Another to his business. Evidently they didn't think much of this great occasion despite it being the wedding of the King's son. Their response was completely out of place and if that wasn't enough the remaining guests took hold of the King's servants and killed them. The result was that



the King sent his armies to kill these wicked guests and destroy their city.

It's a rather strange story. We call it a parable - a sort of picture. In this picture Jesus is speaking of God's

invitation to a great occasion. An invitation to know God and to be united with him at the end of time when Jesus Christ finally returns for his people. A Wedding Day brings wonderful joy but that day will bring in unending joy for those who look to Jesus Christ as their Saviour. On that day they will finally be united with him and sin will no longer have any place in their lives. Instead they will have hearts that have been fitted for

heaven. The Bible refers to this very happy occasion as the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Jesus made the invitation very clear when he said -

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11v28)

It's a promise to deal with the sin, guilt and shame that we all have. Jesus promises rest in place of the misery we know. He can deal with a problem we have no hope of solving and his is no empty claim. By living a completely perfect life and dying in our place on the