

IS GOD PETTY?

• All In Group Discussion Guide •
Third Week of Lent

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, 12 and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Introductions:

- What is your favorite item of clothing or jewelry? Why?

Scripture Reflection:

- What does this passage tell us about God?
- What does it tell us about people?

Sermon Reflection:

- Why do you think clothing can be such a source of judgment?
- What makes judging others tempting, appealing, even enjoyable?
- Have you ever been wrongly judged? How did it impact you?
- God is just AND gracious. Which is easier for you, justice or mercy?
- What makes God a better judge than us?
- What part of your life do you need to surrender to God?

Closing Question & Application:

- What did God say to you during the conversation today?
- How might you live out that learning this week?

Prayer: *(save a little extra time for this)*

This week, do a "hands down/hands up" prayer. Have people place their hands facing down on their laps. Open with prayer and invite people to speak what they need to let go of and give to God. When it feels like everyone who wants to has spoken, invite people to turn their palms up and invite people to a few moments of silence to receive God's forgiveness, grace, love, and peace. Leave a solid minute or two for silence and then say Amen.