

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!





Praise and Prayer Request

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.



Call to Worship
Psalm 101

Psalm 101 I will sing of steadfast love and justice; to you, O LORD, I will make music. I will ponder the way that is blameless. Oh when will you come to me? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house; I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me. A perverse heart shall be far from me; I will know nothing of evil. Whoever slanders his neighbor secretly I will destroy. Whoever has a haughty look and an arrogant heart I will not endure. I will look with favor on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me. No one who practices deceit shall dwell in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue before my eyes. Morning by morning I will destroy all the wicked in the land, cutting off all the evildoers from the city of the LORD.

As with Gladness Men of Old

Hymn 202



Angels from the Realm of Glory

Hymn 190



Receiving of the Offering



2 Cor. 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

Famous Quote:

“God has placed you where He has placed no one else. No one else in the world has the same relationships you have. No one will stand in the same grocery store line at exactly the same moment you do. No one else will come across a starving diplomat in the desert at exactly the same time you do. God hasn’t put you in those places merely to model the truth. Listen for the voice of the Spirit to whisper in your ear. Watch for the stranger on the road. And be aware of your opportunities to go where He would send you.”

CHUCK SWINDOLL

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The book is set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black font.

Today's Message

“The Wedding Feast”

Scripture text: Matthew 22:1-14

This parable **must not be confused with** the Parable of the Great Supper (Luke 14:16–24) even though they have elements in common. Again we meet the Father and the Son; and the Son is alive (in spite of what the husbandmen did) and has a bride. The suggestion is that the Lord Jesus and His church are depicted (Eph. 5:22–33). The period described in this parable must be after His resurrection and ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The Father is still inviting the people of Israel to come, in spite of what they did to His Son. When we study the first seven chapters of Acts, we discover that the message is going out to none but Jews (Acts 2:5, 10, 14, 22, 36; 3:25; 6:7). “To the Jew first” was God’s plan (Acts 3:26; Rom. 1:16). How did the nation’s leaders respond to the ministry of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles? They rejected the Word and persecuted the church. The same rulers who permitted John to be killed, and who asked for Jesus to be killed, themselves killed Stephen! Later, Herod killed James (Acts 12:1ff).

How did the king in the parable respond to the way the people treated his servants? He became angry and sent his armies to destroy them and their city. He then turned to other people and invited them to come to the feast. **This is a picture of God's dealing with Israel.** They **rejected the Father** when they refused to obey John the Baptist's preaching. Israel **rejected the Son** when they arrested Him and crucified Him. In His grace and patience, God sent other witnesses. **The Holy Spirit** came on the early believers and **they witnessed with great power that Jesus was alive and the nation could be saved** (Acts 2:32–36; 3:19–26). The miracles they did were proof that God was at work in and through them.

Act 2:32-36 This Jesus God raised up, and of that **we all are witnesses**. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and **having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit**, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.' Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that **God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.**"

Act 3:19-23 Repent therefore, and turn again, **that your sins may be blotted out**, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and **that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus**, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. **You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.'**

But Israel also rejected the Holy Spirit! This was Stephen's indictment against the nation: "You do always resist the Holy Ghost" (Acts 7:51). With the stoning of Stephen, God's patience with Israel began to end, though He delayed the judgment for almost forty years. In Acts 8 we read that the message went to the Samaritans, and in Acts 10 we read that it even went to the Gentiles.

Act 7:51 "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.

This final rejection is, to me, the awful “blasphemy against the Holy Spirit” that Jesus spoke about in Matthew 12:22–32. **This was a national sin**, committed by Israel. When they rejected John, they rejected the Father who sent him; but there remained the ministry of the Son. When they rejected the Son, they were **forgiven because of their ignorance** (Luke 23:34; Acts 3:17). **No sinner today can be forgiven for rejecting Christ, for this rejection is what condemns the soul (John 3:16–22).**

Luke 23:34 And Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.**" And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Act 3:17-19 "And now, brothers, **I know that you acted in ignorance**, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out,

John 3:16-18 "For God so loved the world, that he **gave his only Son**, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world **might be saved** through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, **but whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

John 3:19-21 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and **people loved the darkness rather than the light** because their works were evil. **For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light,** lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

But there remained the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit came on the church at Pentecost, and the Apostles performed great signs and wonders (Acts 2:43; Heb. 2:1–4). **The rulers rejected the witness of the Spirit, and this brought final judgment.** They had rejected the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, and **there were no more opportunities left.**

Act 2:43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

Hebrews 2:1-4 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, **how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?** It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and **by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.**

This “sin against the Holy Spirit” cannot be committed today in the same way as Israel committed it, because the situation is different.

The Spirit of God is bearing witness through the Word to the person and work of Jesus Christ. **It is the Spirit who convinces the world of sin** (John 16:7–11). **The Spirit can be resisted by unbelievers** (Acts 7:51), but nobody knows that crisis hour (if there is one) ***when the Spirit stops dealing with a lost sinner.***

John 16:7-11 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, **the Helper will not come to you.** But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, **he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:** concerning **sin**, because they do not believe in me; concerning **righteousness**, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning **judgment**, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Matthew 22:11–14 seems like an appendix to the parable, but it is vitally important. The wedding garment was provided by the host so that everybody was properly attired and the poor did not feel conspicuous. **Salvation is personal and individual.** We must accept what God gives to us—**the righteousness of Christ—and not try to make it on our own.** Since these parables had a definite national emphasis, **this personal emphasis at the end was most important.**

Matthew 22:11-14 "But when the king came in to look at the guests, **he saw there a man who had no wedding garment.** And he said to him, 'Friend, **how did you get in here without a wedding garment?**' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' **For many are called, but few are chosen.**"

The nation's leaders were guilty of spiritual blindness, hypocrisy, and deliberate disobedience to the Word.

Instead of accepting this indictment from Jesus, and repenting, **they decided to attack Him and argue with Him.**

The result: **judgment.** We should be careful not to follow their example of disobedience.

Luke 13:23-24 And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, "**Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.**"

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. **For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.**"

2 Peter 1:5-9 For this very reason, **make every effort** to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. **For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.** For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

2 Peter 1:10-13 Therefore, brothers, **be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.** For in this way there will be richly provided for you **an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, **to stir you up by way of reminder,**

Holy Communion



The Family of God

I'm so glad to be part of the family of God

**I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by
His blood**

Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod

For I'm part of the family, the family of God.