Matthew 22.1-14

[1] The invitation must be given.

**[The King] sent his servants to tell the invited guests to come to the feast…** (22.3)

Royal wedding – would you get an invite? Not unless you were John Key!

Months later at the wedding, this invite is ignored (v5). Imagine that!

The King’s servants give the second invite to all and sundry.

**Go to the main streets & invite to the feast as many people as you find.** (22.9)

God is desperate for someone to join *THE PARTY*. The People of God ignored the invite, so it was given to Gentiles instead.

There is yet more room, so we too are invited. How aware are we of that invitation?

[2] The invitation must be received. …**but they did not want to come** (22.3)

Deal or No Deal – you win the Car. Do you get the bus home?

It is not enough to have been offered an invite; like the car, you have to receive it too.

Does not matter whether or not it is the original invite, or a last minute job.

One problem is that it seems too good to be true – surely there is a catch.

[3] Is Morality the catch?

**The servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, *good and bad alike*.** (22.10)

Is the catch that you have to be good first? No. Jesus modelled this by attending feasts of sinners.

But notice how many sinners changed having met with Jesus, egs the woman who wept at Simon’s house, Zaccheaus.

What ultimately mattered was not moral goodness, but response to the invitation. *But* by response we are changed. Morality is the result of the feast, not the requirement for an invite.

Communion is a symbol of this feast. Will we accept the invite, not just to Communion, but also to the heavenly banquet prepared for all humanity?