

the Kingdom of God ...

IS LIKE A PARTY AND EVERYONE IS INVITED!

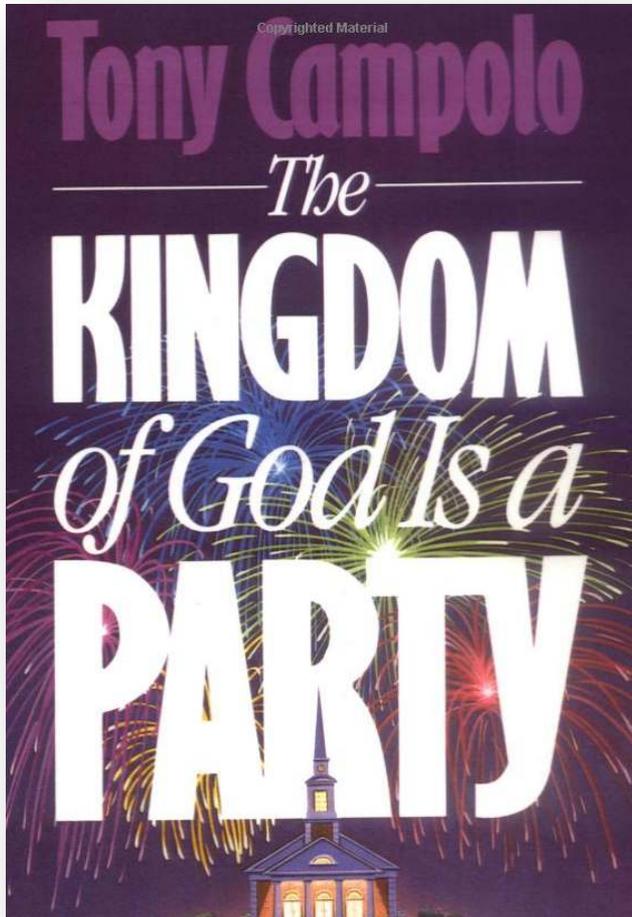


September 8th 2019

Bessels Green Baptist Church Morning Service

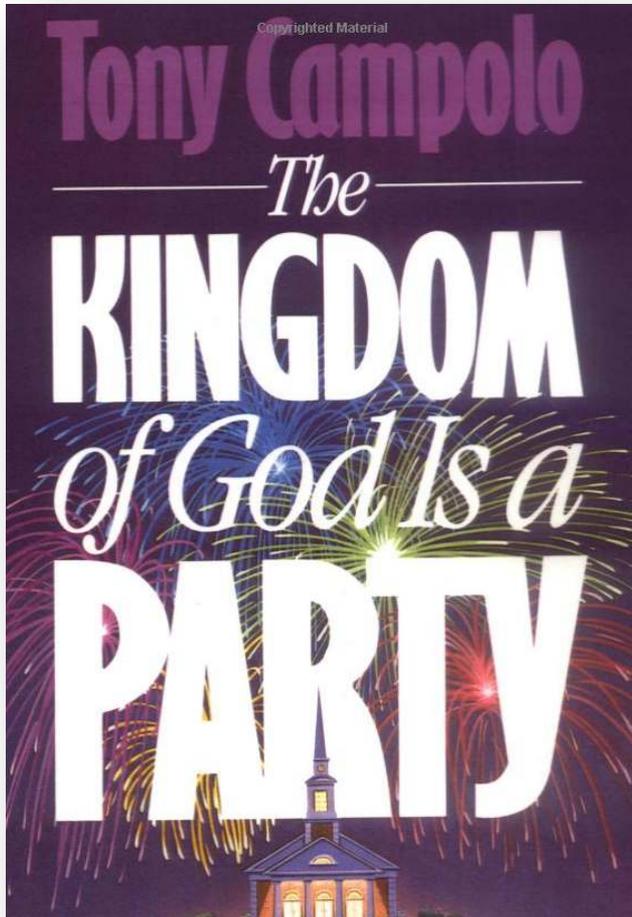
An unusual party!

2



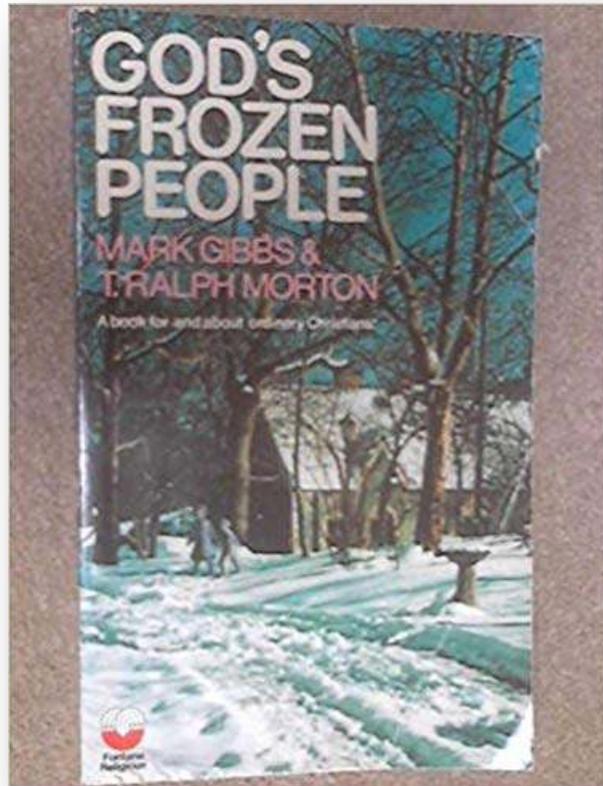
An unusual party!

3



Church doesn't always seem like that!

4



Jesus describes His Kingdom...

5



Matthew 13:31-33

Matthew 22:1-14

22 Jesus also told them other parables. He said, 2 “The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son. 3 When the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to notify those who were invited. But they all refused to come!

4 “So he sent other servants to tell them, ‘The feast has been prepared. The bulls and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the banquet!’ 5 But the guests he had invited ignored them and went their own way, one to his farm, another to his business. 6 Others seized his messengers and insulted them and killed them.

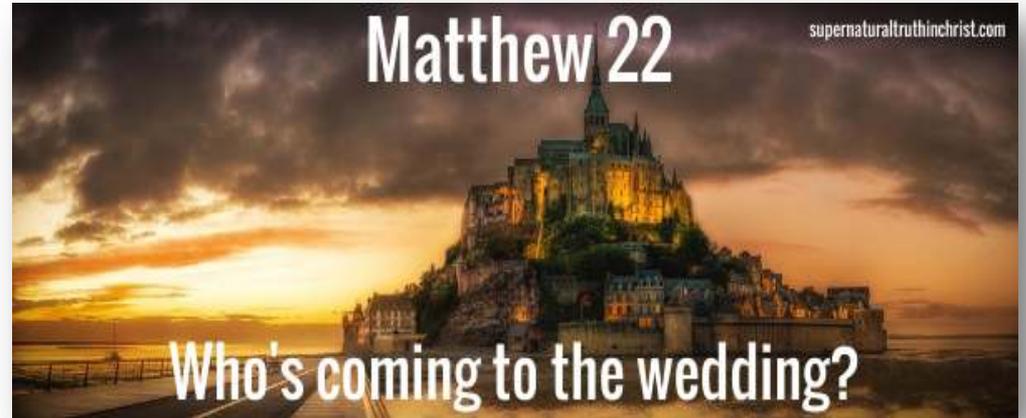
7 “The king was furious, and he sent out his army to destroy the murderers and burn their town. 8 And he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, and the guests I invited aren’t worthy of the honor. 9 Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.’ 10 So the servants brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike, and the banquet hall was filled with guests.

11 “But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn’t wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. 12 ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?’ But the man had no reply. 13 Then the king said to his aides, ‘Bind his hands and feet 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.”

An important invitation (vs.4-6)

7

- The King invites people to his son's wedding
- He sent two invitations!



- But his guests ignored him
- And some seized his messengers and killed them!

An important verse - 7

8

- 'The king was furious and he sent out his army to destroy the murderers and burn their town' *Matt 22:7*
- Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70AD
- Is this verse prophetic?
- Did Matthew add it later?
- Does it indicate a later date for Matthew's gospel?



Don't turn down Jesus!

9

- Jesus warns those who refuse his message
- Persecuting Christians means rejecting Christ
- One day such people will be punished

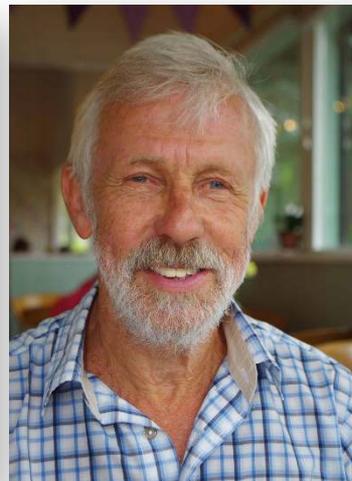
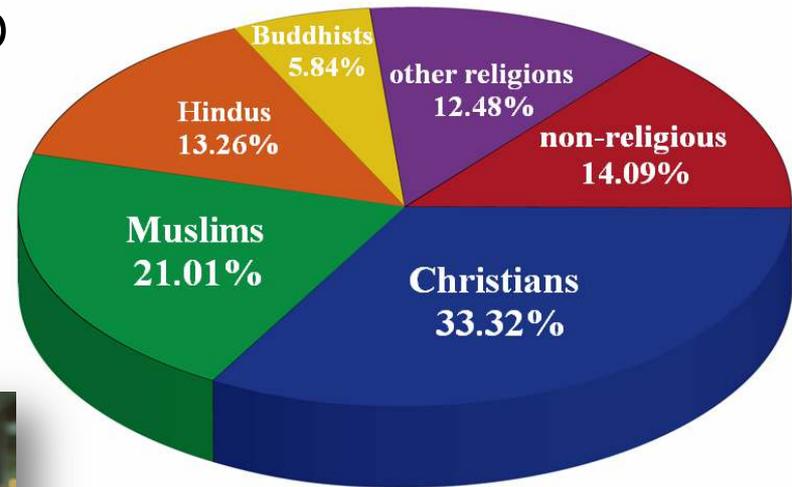


Jesus is throwing a big party!

10

- Everybody is invited!
- 'The good and the bad' vs.10
- Remarkable people become Christians!

World Religions by percentage



Who will you invite?

11

21 DAY PRAYER CAMPAIGN

11:02
LUKE

THE CALL

- 1 Write down the names of three people you would like to explore faith.
- 2 Set a daily alarm for 11:02 as a reminder to pray for your three people and the U.K. for the next 21 days.
- 3 Be open and expectant to see how God might use you.



Jesus invites us to a party!

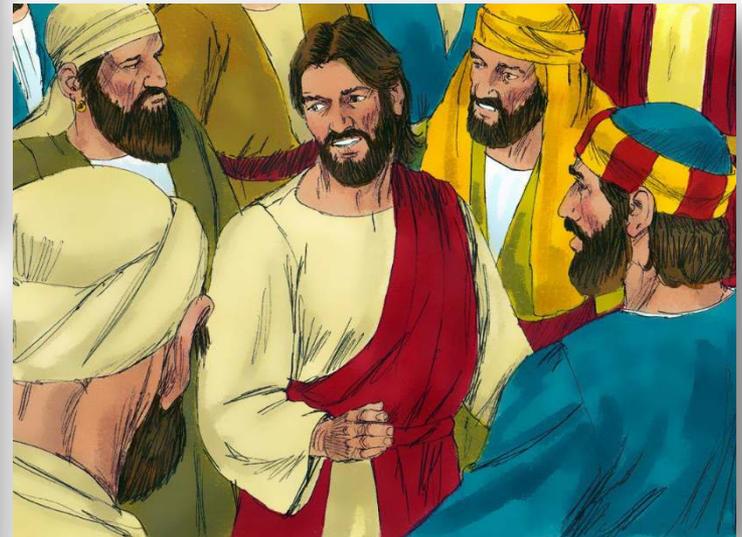
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Prodigal Son



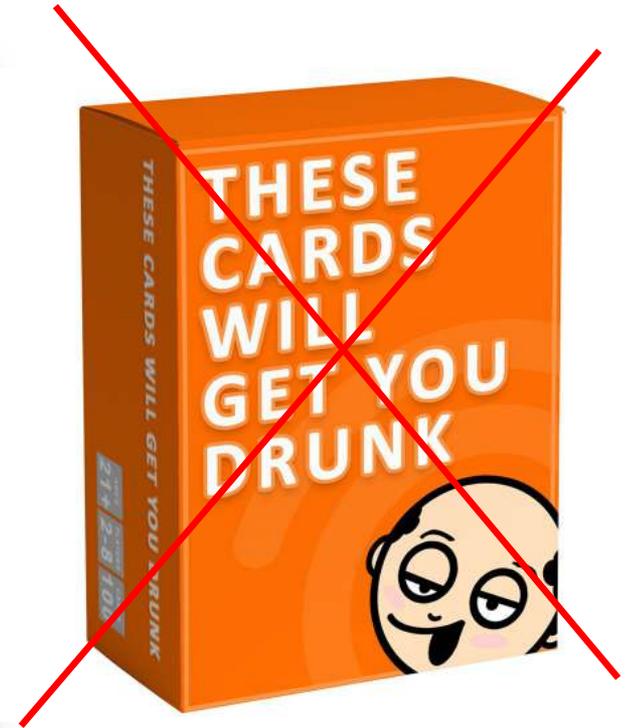
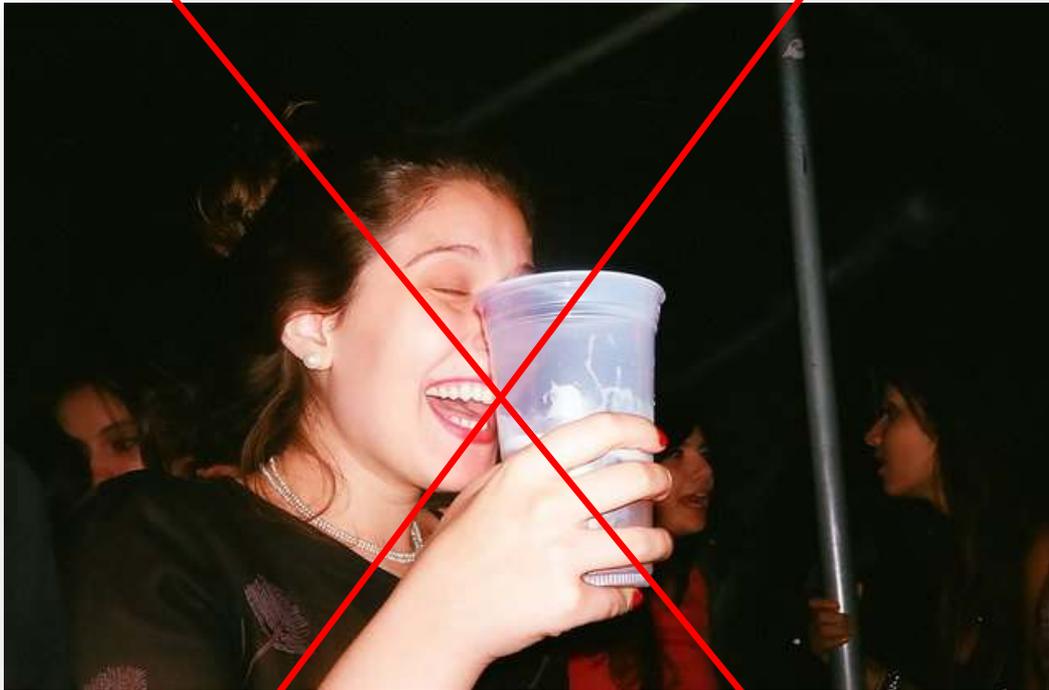
Wedding at Cana



Zacchaeus

Christians know how to party...

13



Christians know how to party!

14



Christians know how to party!

15



Even in difficult times...

16

- ❑ Waiting for worrying test results
- ❑ Marriage breakdown
- ❑ Sickness
- ❑ Loss

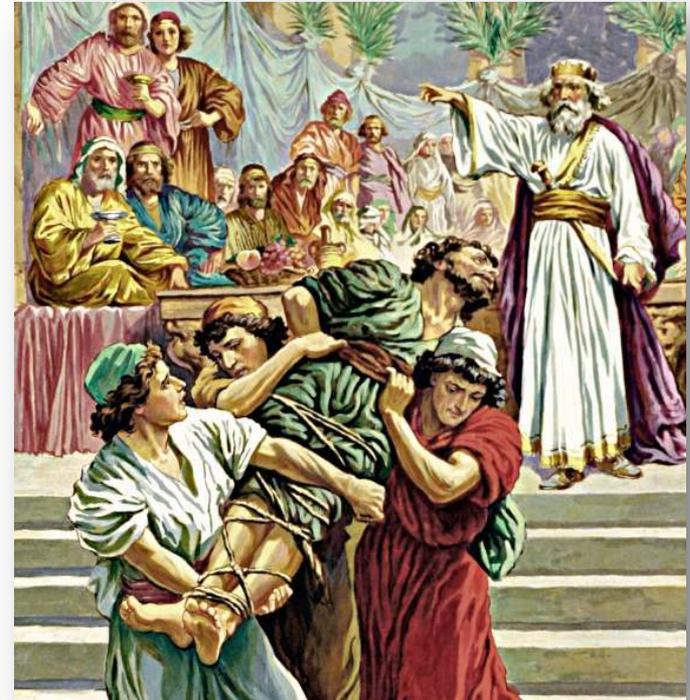
- ❑ God cares
- ❑ We are a caring church family



A sting in the tail! vs.11-14

17

- A man isn't wearing proper wedding clothes
- He offers no explanation
- So the king ties him up and throws him out
- To a place of 'weeping and gnashing of teeth'



- For 'many are called but few are chosen'

Was this fair?

18

- ❑ The king would have provided clothes for all guests
- ❑ This man refused to wear them
- ❑ He wanted to stay in his old clothes



‘Just as I am’ we come – but don’t stay!

19

- Inclusivity means that we all come to Jesus *just as we are*
- But we cannot stay that way!
- We are called to change – to repent – to be new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- We can’t have God on our own terms!



Matthew 22 in Summary

20

- Kingdom of Heaven is like a party!
- God wants to bring joy into our lives
- It's OK to enjoy ourselves!

- But we cannot have God on our own terms
- We must come to him in repentance and faith

