



God.O

THE SEARCH FOR THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF GOD'S CHARACTER

SESSION

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THE BIBLE LAB

1. The person sitting next to me, at one time in their life, was considered a “bad-boy” or “bad-girl.”
2. As a child, I was at times fearful of the Second Coming.
3. Many of the people within my denomination THINK they are going to heaven, but they are not.
4. There are those who will be excluded from heaven, because their bad deeds are so great.
5. It is easier to be lost than it is to be saved.

yes
&
no

dig
deeper

THE UNPARDONABLE SIN?

∞ What is the most impressive invitation you've received? Who was it from?

READ Matthew 22:1-5.

1 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. 4 “Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’ 5 “But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business.

READ Luke 14:18-20.

18 “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ 19 “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ 20 “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’

∞ What do you think that each of these excuses really meant? (Just bought a field/five yoke of oxen/just got married)

READ Matthew 22:6-7.

6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

∞ Who do you think Jesus was referring to here? Was this about his day, or the last days?

READ Matthew 22:8-10.

8 “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9 So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ 10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

dig deeper ...continued

- ∞ What do you think the King really meant by “go to the street corners”?
- ∞ Did the King really mean he wanted “both good and bad” in the wedding hall?

READ Luke 14:21-23.

[After the servants had returned from the three excuses, the King ordered his servant,] *“21...‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ 22 ‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ 23 ‘Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. 24 I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”*

- ∞ The King’s greatest concern seems to be that the wedding hall will not be full. He seems unconcerned with the reputation of the guests. How does that translate to God the Father and exactly who just might be in heaven?

READ Matthew 22:11-14.

11 “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 12 He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

13 “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

14 “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

- ∞ Who does the man without wedding clothes represent?
 - » What was the custom of “wedding garments” in Jesus’ day?
 - ° What was the man actually saying to the King?

my prayer

1. What struck you the most when we went through Jesus’ story about his Father?
2. Where do you picture yourself, right now, in the story of the Wedding Banquet? Invited guest that is currently distracted? Invited guest from the country roads? The good? The bad? The one with his own robe?
3. What was one misconception of God the Father that you feel got corrected this week?