

MATTHEW'S PARABLE OF
THE ROYAL WEDDING FEAST

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MATTHEW'S PARABLE OF
THE ROYAL WEDDING FEAST

A Sociorhetorical Interpretation

Ruth Christa Mathieson



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Abbreviations

1QH	Hodoyot
1QM	War Scroll
1QS	Rule of the Community
4Q510–511	Songs of the Sage
4Q525	Beatitudes
11Q19–20	Temple Scroll
A.J.	Josephus, <i>Antiquitates judaicae</i>
AB	Anchor Bible
<i>Ab urbe cond.</i>	Livy, <i>Ab urbe condita</i>
<i>AcT</i>	<i>Acta Theologica</i>
<i>Alex.</i>	Plutarch, <i>Alexander</i>
<i>Anab.</i>	Arrian, <i>Anabasis</i>
Apoc. Ab.	Apocalypse of Abraham
ANF	Roberts, Alexander, and James Donaldson, eds. <i>The Ante-Nicene Fathers</i> . 10 vols. Repr., Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1994.
Ascen. Isa.	Ascension of Isaiah
<i>Aug.</i>	Suetonius, <i>Augustus</i>
ATR	<i>Australian Theological Review</i>
b.	Babylonian Talmud
<i>B.J.</i>	Josephus, <i>Bellum Judaicum</i>
Barn.	Barnabas
BBR	<i>Bulletin for Biblical Research</i>
BDAG	Frederick W., Walter Bauer, William F. Arndt, and Felix Wilbur Gingrich. <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.
BECNT	Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament
Bekh.	Bekhorot

Ber.	Berakhot
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
<i>BibInt</i>	<i>Biblical Interpretation</i>
BibInt	Biblical Interpretation Series
BLS	Bible and Literature Series
<i>BSac</i>	<i>Bibliotheca Sacra</i>
<i>BTB</i>	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
<i>BZ</i>	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>Cal.</i>	Suetonius, <i>Gaius Caligula</i>
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CD	Damascus Document
<i>Comm. Matt.</i>	Origen, <i>Commentarium in evangelium Matthaei</i>
<i>CP</i>	<i>Classical Philology</i>
<i>CurBR</i>	<i>Currents in Biblical Research</i>
<i>CurTM</i>	<i>Currents in Theology and Mission</i>
<i>Bib. hist.</i>	Diodorus Siculus, <i>Bibliotheca historica</i>
<i>DSD</i>	<i>Dead Sea Discoveries</i>
<i>EDNT</i>	Balz, Horst, and Gerhard Schneider, eds. <i>Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament</i> . 3 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990–1993.
En.	Enoch
<i>Ep.</i>	<i>Epistulae</i>
<i>Epig.</i>	Martial, <i>Epigrams</i>
ESEC	Emory Studies in Early Christianity
<i>ExpTim</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
FAT	Forschungen zum Alten Testament
FC	Fathers of the Church
Gen. Rab.	Genesis Rabbah
<i>Gest. Pelag.</i>	Augustine, <i>De gestis Pelagii</i>
Git.	Gittin
Gos. Thom.	Gospel of Thomas
Hag.	Hagigah
<i>Haer.</i>	Irenaeus, <i>Adversus haereses</i>
<i>Hist. Rom.</i>	Appian, <i>Historia Romana</i> ; Dio Cassis, <i>Historiae romanae</i>
<i>Hom.</i>	Gregory the Great, <i>Homiliae</i>
<i>Hom. Matt.</i>	John Chrysostom, <i>Homiliae in Matthaeeum</i>
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>HvTSt</i>	<i>Hervormde theologiese studies</i>

HvTStSup	Hervormde teologiese studies Supplement Series
<i>Inst.</i>	Quintilian, <i>Institution oratoria</i>
<i>Int</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
JAAR	<i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JFSR	<i>Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion</i>
Jos. Asen.	Joseph and Aseneth
JSJ	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Periods</i>
JSNT	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSNTSup	Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series
JSQ	<i>Jewish Studies Quarterly</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
Jub.	Jubilees
Ketub.	Ketubbot
<i>Marc.</i>	Tertullian, <i>Adversus Marcionem</i>
<i>Men.</i>	Lucian, <i>Menippus</i>
Menah.	Menahot
<i>Metam.</i>	Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i>
Midr. Pss.	Midrash Psalms
Midr. Rab.	Midrash Rabbah
<i>Mos.</i>	Philo, <i>De vita Mosis</i>
MSJ	<i>The Master's Seminary Journal</i>
NAC	New American Commentary
<i>Neot</i>	<i>Neotestamentica</i>
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament
NIDNTT	Brown, Colin, ed. <i>New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology</i> . 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975–1978.
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentary
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
NTM	New Testament Message
NTS	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
OTP	Charlesworth, James H., ed. <i>Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i> . 2 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1983, 1985.
p.	peshet

Pesah.	Pesahim
<i>Pan.</i>	Epiphanius, <i>Panarion</i>
<i>Paen.</i>	Ambrose, <i>De paenitentia</i>
<i>Phaedr.</i>	Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i>
<i>Procat.</i>	Cyril of Jerusalem, <i>Procatechesis</i>
<i>Proof</i>	<i>Prooftext: A Journal of Jewish Literary History</i>
Pss. Sol.	Psalms of Solomon
Qoh. Zut.	Qoholeth Zuta
Rab.	Rabbah
Res gest. divi Aug.	Res gestae divi Augusti
<i>RevExp</i>	<i>Review and Expositor</i>
<i>RevQ</i>	<i>Revue de Qumran</i>
RRA	Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity
Sanh.	Sanhedron
<i>Sat.</i>	Juvenal, <i>Satires</i>
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLSP	Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers
<i>Scorp.</i>	Tertullian, <i>Scorpiace</i>
<i>Serm.</i>	Augustine, <i>Sermones</i>
Shabb.	Shabbat
Sifre Deut.	Sifre Deuteronomy
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
<i>Somn.</i>	Philo, <i>De somniis</i>
SNT	Studien zum Neuen Testament
SNTSMS	Society of New Testament Studies Monograph Series
SR	<i>Studies in Religion</i>
SymS	Symposium Series
T. Gad	Testament of Gad
T. Jud.	Testament of Judah
T. Levi	Testament of Levi
t.	Tosefta
<i>TDNT</i>	Kittel, Gerhard, and Gerhard Friedrich, eds. <i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> . Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. 10 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964–1976.
<i>ThTo</i>	<i>Theology Today</i>
TNTC	Tyndale New Testament Commentaries
<i>TynBul</i>	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
VC	<i>Vigiliae Christianae</i>

WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WGRWSup	Writings from the Greco-Roman World Supplement series
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
y.	Jerusalem Talmud

Translation of Matthew 22:1–14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying:

- 2 The dominion of heaven may be compared to a man—a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.
- 3 He sent his slaves to call the invited ones to the wedding feast, but they were not willing to come.
- 4 Again he sent other slaves, saying,
“Tell those who have been invited:
Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fatted calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast!”
- 5 But disregarding it they went away,
one to his own field, another to his business,
- 6 while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated 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 feast.”
- 10 Those slaves went out to the crossroads and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, until the wedding was filled with dinner guests.
- 11 But when the king came in to see the people dining, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothing,
- 12 and he said to him,
“Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothing?”
And he was silent.
- 13 Then the king said to the attendants,

“Bind his feet and hands, and throw him out into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

14 For many are called, but few chosen.