

A VERY UNEXPECTED PARTY

by Ruth Buchanan



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EDUCATIONAL SERIES**

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Parable: The Wedding Banquet

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A VERY UNEXPECTED PARTY*Parable: The Wedding Banquet***By Ruth Buchanan**

SYNOPSIS: When two companies merge, there is a lavish celebration—but when the original guests don't show, the planners recruit "replacement guests." All is well until one blatantly ignores the dress code and gets banished.

BIBLE VERSE: Matthew 22:1-14

CAST OF CHARACTERS*(10-14 either)*

CEO (m/f) The boss. Confident and authoritative. *(54 lines)*

SMITH (m/f) Personal assistant. Unflappable and wise. *(40 lines)*

PARTY PLANNER 1 (m/f) Intelligent and obsequious. *(11 lines)*

PARTY PLANNER 2 (m/f) Intelligent and obsequious. *(12 lines)*

GUEST 1 (m/f) Excited. *(4 lines)*

GUEST 2 (m/f) Thrilled. *(6 lines)*

GUEST 3 (m/f) Pumped. *(3 lines)*

GUEST 4 (m/f) Joyful. *(2 lines)*

GUEST 5 (m/f) Rebellious. *(6 lines)*

SECURITY (m/f) 1-5, official. *(3 lines)*

DURATION: 10 minutes.

SETTING: Interior of a office building and a party.

TIME: Present day.

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SET

Visually divide the stage in half: office on one side and the party on the other. The office needs a desk (or table) and chair with a cordless phone and papers on top, and perhaps a laptop. Add other office furnishings as desired. A bare stage is fine for the party side, or you could add such items as a “Congratulations!” banner and balloons.

COSTUMES

CEO, SMITH, and PARTY PLANNERS 1 AND 2 wear business attire. SECURITY may wear some type of uniform, or simply a hat with a badge saying “Security.” Guests 1-4 wear clothes appropriate for a party. Guest 5’s outfit should be nonconformist and outlandish.

PUBLISHER NOTE

Parables are earthly stories intended to reveal a heavenly meaning. They are by nature stories that people could relate to and which would inspire questions and discussion, thus providing the opportunity for revelation of the truth. We have brought these parables into present time where the listener can relate and once again ask questions, which will reveal the true meaning.

SCRIPTURE: Taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION ® Copyright© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission.

PARABLE: And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, ³and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”’ ⁵But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ ¹⁰And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. ¹²And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then 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.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen” (*Matthew 22:1-14*)



AT START: *The CEO sits behind his desk in his office.*

CEO: Finally! The merger is complete and our two companies are fully integrated. It’s time to celebrate. Smith! Get in here.

SMITH enters.

SMITH: Yes sir. At your service, sir.

CEO: Call the party planners and confirm the details for the soirée.

SMITH: The what, sir?

CEO: The party. The party, Smith. The party celebrating our company’s recent merger.

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SMITH: Yes sir. Which one would you like me to call, sir?

CEO: How's that?

SMITH: Which party planner would you like me to call?

CEO: The one we employed, of course.

SMITH: We employed two, sir.

CEO: Why would we employ two?

SMITH: They're partners, sir. One company, two planners.

CEO: I see.

SMITH: Which partner would you like me to call, sir?

CEO: Call them both.

SMITH: Consider it done, sir.

PARTY PLANNER 1 and PARTY PLANNER 2 enter promptly.

CEO: How did you do that?

SMITH: I'm a professional, sir.

CEO: You certainly are. Well, what about you two? Are you professionals? Smart? Capable? Good at your job?

PARTY PLANNER 1: Of course!

PARTY PLANNER 2: The best!

SMITH: Only the best for you, sir.

CEO: Everything is taken care of?

PARTY PLANNER 1: Naturally.

CEO: The food?

PARTY PLANNER 2: Yes.

CEO: The drinks?

PARTY PLANNER 2: Yes.

CEO: The decorations?

PARTY PLANNER 1: Yes.

CEO: Plates? Cups? Napkins? Those little hotdogs on toothpicks?

PARTY PLANNER 2: We promise everything is under control.

CEO: And the invitations were sent out on time?

PARTY PLANNER 1: Yes...

PARTY PLANNER 2: But...

PARTY PLANNER 1: Well...

CEO: Is there a problem?

SMITH: I don't know if I'd call it a problem...

CEO: Well?

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PARTY PLANNER 1: It's about the RSVPs.

CEO: What about the RSVPs?

PARTY PLANNER 2: There haven't been any.

CEO: Wait a minute. Surely you're not saying...

SMITH: It seems no one is coming, sir.

CEO: What do you mean by "no one is coming"?

SMITH: Well, sir—

CEO: Did they not get the invitations?

PARTY PLANNER 1: Oh, they did.

CEO: You're sure?

PARTY PLANNER 2: We hand-delivered them, sir.

PARTY PLANNER 1: Only the best for our clients.

CEO: Only the best? This is a nightmare! I have a party and no guests!

PARTY PLANNER 2: We can hardly be held responsible for that.

CEO: *(Pawing through papers on desk.)* Here. *(Pointing at paper.)* See here? Right here in your ad. You "absolutely guarantee complete satisfaction."

SMITH: Sir, you can't just—

CEO: Watch me. *(Dials number on phone.)* Hello? Is this Robert, Roberts, and Robertson, Attorneys at Law? I'd like to file a lawsuit—

PARTY PLANNER 1: I am sure that's not necessary.

PARTY PLANNER 2: Not necessary at all.

PARTY PLANNER 1: We will take care of everything.

PARTY PLANNER 2: Absolutely everything.

CEO: Oh?

PARTY PLANNER 2: We will personally go door to door—

PARTY PLANNER 1: And personally contact each guest—

PARTY PLANNER 2: And personally convince them to come to the party.

CEO: See that you do, ASAP. *(Hangs up phone.)*

PARTY PLANNERS 1 and 2 and SMITH exit. Stagehand may walk across the stage with a sign reading "The Next Day."

SMITH: *(Tapping on door, entering.)* Sir?

CEO: Yes? Are the guests here?

SMITH: Not exactly, sir.

CEO: Well? What now?

SMITH: This is a bit awkward.

CEO: What's a bit awkward?

SMITH: The party planners, sir.

CEO: What about them?

SMITH: They're dead, sir.

CEO: They're what?!

SMITH: Dead, sir.

CEO: What happened? Was there an accident?

SMITH: I wouldn't call it an accident.

CEO: Explain.

SMITH: It seems some of the guests were less than pleased by the repeated personal invitations.

CEO: And?

SMITH: Have you ever heard the saying, "Don't shoot the messenger"?

CEO: Of course. Who hasn't?

SMITH: It would seem that some of your guests haven't, sir.

CEO: Are you telling me that the party guests shot my party planners?

SMITH: I am.

CEO: Why?

SMITH: Because you asked me, sir.

CEO: I don't mean why are you telling me! I mean, why would they do that?

SMITH: The details are hazy, sir.

CEO: This is an outrage!

SMITH: I agree.

CEO: Call security!

SMITH: Consider it done.

SECURITY enters immediately.

CEO: How are you doing this?

SMITH: Tricks of the trade, sir.

CEO: (To SECURITY.) I'm assuming you know what happened.

SECURITY: Sir, yes sir.

CEO: I'd like you to... take care of it.

SECURITY: Sir, yes sir.

CEO: Dismissed.

SECURITY exits.

SMITH: What do you mean by "take care of it," sir?

CEO: They know.

SMITH: How can you be so sure they know?

CEO: Trade secrets.

SMITH: Touché, sir.

CEO: Now, there's something I need you to do...

CEO and SMITH exit, deep in discussion. GUESTS 1-5 enter from opposite side, gazing around with delight.

GUEST 1: Woah.

GUEST 2: Look at all this!

GUEST 3: I can't believe it.

GUEST 4: I know. There I was, just sitting at home minding my own business, when suddenly this guy showed up.

GUEST 1: *(Nods.)* Smith.

GUEST 4: Yes!

GUEST 2: Same here. He just told me to get dressed and come to the party.

SMITH enters.

GUEST 1: *(To SMITH.)* Is all of this really for us?

SMITH: Yes, it is.

GUEST 4: But why?

GUEST 2: What's it all for?

GUEST 3: And why would anybody throw us a party?

SMITH: I hope this doesn't disappoint you too much, but you weren't the original recipients. Others were invited, but they chose not to come.

GUEST 2: Who wouldn't want to come to this?

GUEST 5: *(Walks up to group of GUESTS 1-4.)* What's up, nerds?

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CEO enters unobtrusively and hangs back, observing.

SMITH: *(Stepping in front of GUEST 5.)* Excuse me.

GUEST 5: Are you talking to me?

SMITH: Indeed. Just a quick clarifying question. Were you not informed of the dress code?

GUEST 5: Dress code, schmess code.

SMITH: Excuse me?

GUEST 5: I dress how I want, fool. You got a problem with that?

CEO: *(Steps up.)* He might not, but I do.

GUEST 5: Who are you?

CEO: The host. Security!

SECURITY enters.

CEO: Remove this person.

SECURITY: Sir, yes sir.

GUEST 5: But I was invited!

SECURITY drags GUEST 5 away.

GUEST 1: What's going to happen to him?

CEO: You don't need to worry about that.

SMITH: Security will take care of it.

GUEST 2: How?

CEO: They know what to do.

GUEST 2: How do they know?

CEO and SMITH: *(Together.)* Trade secrets.

THE END



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