

Invited and Accepting!



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Every time we meet a temptation or trial; every time we are offended or wronged, the invitation is given—we either respond in the way of the Lord or the way of the world. We can accept or refuse the invitation—and the Master invites us John 15:4 “Abide in me, and I in you.”

Jesus told several stories about qualifying for His Kingdom—in one He spoke of Heaven and why many are not worthy to enter. Matthew 22:2 “The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, 3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.”

Being invited to this great feast included a voice from “Out of the throne” saying Revelation 19:9 “Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.” It is being invited to this Kingdom, and our willingness to accept the invitation by accepting to walk in the light of the Truth every day and concerning every thing.

The one who wanted to enter for this feast, but had not a garment of faith to qualify, was told Matthew 22:12 “Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.”

There is no excuse for not living the Truth God has clearly explained in His Word; and no excuse of any type will justify our living like the world, instead of living like a believer of faithful trust on God. Jesus said there will be no exemptions—Romans 14:12 “Every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

The next parable explains a humble life of faith and trust on God—it was right after Jesus advised us to invite the poor or anyone to dinner who would not have the means to reciprocate and invite us back to a meal at their home.

Luke 14:14 “And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just. 15 And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.” Jesus expounded on that statement with the following story.

Luke 14:16 “Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: 17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. 18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.”

Even though there is no excuse to refuse the invitation to this great supper, those invited wanted to be excused, because of other things being more important and taking priority. One man desired to inspect some real estate on earth—it was more important to him than partaking of the Supper in Heaven.

Luke 14:19 “And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. 20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.” Two more refuse the invitation because the interest of one was whether his purchase was

a wise decision. The second had his interests centered on his new home and wife.

Luke 14:21 “So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.”

God is grieved at the lack of interest in the world in knowing the importance of their spiritual interests—that they should place the highest priority on accepting God’s call to walk by faith in Him in order to be eligible for His kingdom. James 2:5 “Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?”

Luke 14:22 “And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. 23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.”

The invitation has been sent to the world, but most respond with disinterest. They refuse to see the necessity of faith in God—this preparation by God for eternity is generally ignored or rejected by many. Most believe that if you profess to accept Jesus as your Savior, you will be saved—but Jesus said that actions of faith must accompany speaking of faith if we expect to be prepared for eternity.

Our acceptance of God’s call, and our preparation for the return of His Son, is vital—it should be first priority as we begin each day. A true preparation is when our heart is controlled by the Holy Spirit; and we are growing spiritually each day by meeting every person and situation that arises in a scriptural way. God is more interested in seeing spiritual growth than in anything else.

It is *not* our religious *appearance*; it is *not* our religious *conversing*, and it is *not* anything *else* we do on the *surface* that has any merit to convert our heart. It is the *inward* attitude of our *heart* that is of *major* importance in the sight of God. Every person and circumstance we meet will bring forth spiritual fruit—if we meet them according to God’s will and Word.

The temptations that arise in our life—the physical oppressions; financial matters; work situations; school issues; our home environment; interactions with friends and relatives, and with everyone else, are for *one* purpose—to increase our *faith* and our *dependence* on God. Romans 8:28 “*We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*”

We are *called* by God to let Him *change* our attitudes toward *everything* and *everyone*. It is a most *important thing* with God; and it should be the *most important thing* with *us*—seeing this conversion and attitude change taking place in our heart. This is *very* important because of our tendency to be occupied with “*Cares and riches and pleasures of this life*” Luke 8:14. Knowing that Jesus could return in a moment, we should not be too involved with things of this world.

Christ will return *suddenly*, so we must be alert *spiritually!* It is *so* easy to be distracted today—but we are warned Luke 21:34 “*Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting [revelry], and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.*

36 “*Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things [horrors] that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*” The average person proclaiming to be a follower of Christ, does not

trust God in faith for much of anything, and they think that anyone who *does* trust God in real faith is unreasonable or fanatical.

Malachi 3:18 “*You will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.*” The Holy Spirit will enlighten us to recognize those who really *trust* God in faith for the issues of life, and those who do *not*. Our *outward* attitude toward *people* is a clear indicator of our *inward* attitude toward *God*.

We should *not* act one way at *home*, and another way in *church*. We must *change* attitudes that *need* changing—*doing that* is accepting the invitation; *that* is heeding the call; and *that* is allowing God to make us ready to see Jesus.

All malice, meanness, spite, jealousy, bitterness and resentment toward one another, must be repented of and *gone from our heart*—such things should *not* exist in a believing *heart* or Christian *home*. When true *love* for God is in our *heart*, there will be real *peace* in our *home* as a result.

The true Christian attitude is Matthew 7:12 “*Do for others what you would like them to do for you. This is a summary of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.*” We should always treat *people* in a way that we want them to treat *us*—no matter where we are or who we are around.

To accept the Lord’s *invitation*, is to heed the *call* to live a life of faith and trust in God. All resentment and hard feelings must be *out* of our heart; we must be at *peace* with God and everyone else—*loving* everyone—even those who have *harmed* us or our children. Instead of *resenting* them, we should be doing *good things* for them—*that* is accepting the invitation to follow Jesus. Ephesians 4:32 “*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*”

All offences are to be met in a scriptural way, because if we are not found in that right spiritual

condition when Jesus returns—we will be left behind and have to endure the dreadful conditions of the Tribulation. If no sincere repentance is forthcoming, we could find ourselves in the Lake of Fire forever. Satan wants to *defile* our conscience and *destroy* our soul—we *cannot* let him do that!

If there is any *resentment* in our heart; if we are holding any *grudge* against anyone, for any reason, we *must* get rid of such worldly and unscriptural attitudes forever—or *regret* it forever. Ephesians 4:31 “*Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you.*”

If we need to repent about *anything*; or if we need to forsake a wrong attitude toward *anyone*, we must do it *now*—we *cannot delay* for a *second*, because the Rapture could *happen* in a *second*—1 Corinthians 15:51 “*Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.*”

1 John 1:7 “*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*” Walking in light, means accepting His invitation to forgive Ephesians 4:32 “*One another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*” Invited and accepting the invitation to show a Christ-like attitude toward all!



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