

# The Invitation Still Stands!



#3012 0717 22A

The invitation to an eternal Paradise still stands and has stood for centuries! The invitation is for *anyone* of *any age* and *any culture* to attend the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. It includes spending your *eternal life* in Heaven with the Lord Jesus.

The invitation is given Revelation 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” To open the door is to open your *heart* to receive Jesus as our Lord and Master from that moment—and never looking back nor going back to the ways of the world.

Having Jesus in our heart means that when Jesus says to forgive *everyone*—as He has forgiven us of *everything*—He is inviting us to the Supper. Accepting the invitation, then, means forgiving everyone from the heart—everyone of everything—are we willing to do that, is the question.

Jesus explains how to *live* the Christian life and how to accept His invitation. Matthew 6:3 “When thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth.” And there is a reason for our giving to charity in that way—Matthew 6:4 “That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.” The reward is the feast!

These are the Master’s guidelines for the Christian life. Matthew 6:6 “When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door,

*pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”*

When we give to the poor in that way—something that is only between God and us—we are accepting the invitation to the Marriage supper of the Lamb.

A forgiving spirit is so important—Matthew 6:14 “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” We can accept the invitation by following His Word and forgiving anyone who has offended us.

God’s Truth touches those *things* that are closest to our heart. Accepting His invitation means sending our wealth to Heaven. Matthew 6:19 “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth—but 20 “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”

To transfer our treasures to Heaven means giving secretly to the poor—just giving evidence we love *God* more than *money*. Matthew 6:24 “Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Matthew 6:34 “Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”

Two thousand years have passed since then, and many think the world has grown wiser—but is it really getting wiser or just making more excuses. The invitation still stands—like being asked to do a favor—Matthew 5:41 “Whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain;” but it is easy to make an excuse and not do that.

Someone may ask us to let them use a power tool—Matthew 5:42 “Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away;” but we usually make excuses why we cannot loan it to them.

A parable—Luke 14:16 “A certain man made a great supper and bade many: 17 And sent his servant at supper time to say—Come; for all things are now ready. 18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse.”

The “*certain man*” is the Lord God, and the “*invited many*” is we in the world. Are we making *excuses*, or are we making *certain* of our entrance into His eternal kingdom? Are we preparing for the sudden return of the Lord—that is the issue!

Any excuse for not accepting the *teaching* of the Lord Jesus is just as unreasonable and unfounded as the three excuses of those who were invited to the king’s supper. Accepting the Lord Jesus and following His teaching includes being granted a pardon; being free from wrong ideas and unscriptural desires; and it means going in the right direction—toward His kingdom.

The joy comes from knowing that our sins and mistakes of the past have been forgiven—they are no longer held against us. It is indeed a joyful feeling to have a living hope of Heaven in our heart. The true Gospel is “*good tidings of great joy*,” and not *sad tidings of great gloom*. What we *give up* are all those things we *get back* in a right and scriptural manner.

We give up *hard feelings and resentful attitudes*—which are replaced with *kind feelings and forgiving attitudes*. Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” That invitation that still stands and is presented to every one of every age—we either accept it and be willing to *forgive*; or we reject it and make excuses why we *cannot* forgive.

The invitation was presented to Governor Felix, but he turned it down, because he would have to give up his unscriptural marriage situation—Druscilla would have to go back to her first husband; Felix would have lost some friends and

given up laid up monies. But he would have *gained* far more than he *lost*—his sins would have been forgiven and peace would have filled his heart.

No one can afford to make excuses for not following the Word and will of God regarding any situation. We cannot make excuses and say that we do not fully understand God's will on any given matter. John 7:17 *"If any man will [chooses to] do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."*

If we are willing to *believe* and to *do* what we know is right, God has promised to show us more of His Truth. It was the prayer of the apostle—Ephesians 1:17 *"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling."*

The devil tries to deceive and suggests that we cannot be forgiven because we have sinned too deliberately; too many times; or that the mistakes we made and the poor judgment we used, were too serious to be forgiven. *None* are any excuse not to ask God to forgive us. John 6:37 *"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."*

Some make the excuse that they could not live God's Truth; or not be able to get through the temptations they would face, but neither excuse is valid. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith—if we will not make *excuses* but make the *decision* to accept Him as our Lord and Master. We are 1 Peter 1:5 *"Kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation."*

The invitation still stands, and Jesus is still at the door—saying Luke 14:17 *"Come, for all things are now ready."* What we answer is of eternal importance. We could make excuses, or we could say: *The mistakes of my life have been many; the sins of my heart have been more; and I scarce can*

*see for the weeping; but I'll knock at the open door!*

If we want to be excused, God will take us at our word, and we will *be* excused—but that is not what He wants—His desire is that we *accept* the invitation and walk in the light of His Truth—that is why He is 2 Peter 3:9 *"Being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent."* We must *not* delay, but instead we must *repent*—because 10 *"The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night."*

It is most unfortunate that so many do not heed the warnings and keep making excuses. Luke 14:18 *"And they all with one consent began to make excuse"*—they were simply not willing to live by the Word and not willing to obey the will of the Father. *"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."*

Those men excused themselves from an eternal Feast in Heaven because they were too distracted by temporary things on earth. They were offered an invitation to live God's Truth, but they would rather make an excuse.

Luke 14:21 *"Then the master of the house being angry,"* had to tell His servant to, *"Go out quickly into the streets,"* and offer my invitation to anyone and to everyone who is willing to accept what I am offering: forgiveness of sins and a place at My table in My kingdom.

That invitation was offered two-thousand years ago, and it still stands to this day—but all too many still make excuses. Luke 14:23 *"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 Savior of our soul is inviting us to a Feast in His kingdom—a feast that never ends.

We can make excuses, or we can accept His offer to follow His instructions. John 15:10 *"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."*

An analogy: we receive an important document that is an invitation to be present at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb—a response is required. The two responses: *I accept the invitation; and I pray thee have me excused.* It says to *check one* and *sign* the document. Which box would we check, then *sign* the document, and return it to the One offering the invitation?

Every time we are insulted, offended, or wronged, we are offered an invitation, and we are compelled to respond. Jesus says Luke 6:37 *"Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven,"* or resent and be condemned. Every time we need to treat someone—either kindly or unkindly—we are offered an invitation. Matthew 7:12 *"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."*

Yes, two-thousand years have passed since the parable of the Feast Luke 14, and people *still* make excuses; they *still* refuse the invitation—an invitation that includes a Supper attended by God, His Son Jesus, and every true believer of every generation who realized the gravity of the situation and understood the importance of accepting the instructions of our Savior.

John 15:12 *"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."*

*That invitation still stands!*



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