

AN INVITATION TO HEAVEN

(Matt. 22:1-14)

Introduction:

1. The Bible in one sense is but an invitation to fallen man to be saved. The Bible details the generation of man, the degeneration of man, and the invitation to the regeneration of man.
2. The parable read illustrates so well (truly our Lord is the Master Teacher) this aspect of the Gospel as an invitation.
3. Let us consider the first invitation in the parable, the second invitation in the parable and then THE invitation in the parable.

Discussion:

I. The first invitation (vv 1-7).

- A. This parable was spoken in the context of the religious leaders seeking to “lay hands” on Jesus because of His teaching (Matt. 21:45, 46).
 1. Jesus had spoken the parable of the wicked vinedressers (Matt. 21:33-41) after the parable of two sons (Matt. 21:28-32). The Jewish religious leaders understood Jesus was talking about them in the parables.
 2. Jesus also reminded them of the prophecy of Isaiah (Is. 8:14) and the psalmist (Ps. 118:22, 23) that those looking for the kingdom would reject the chief cornerstone, and went on to explain that unless they changed their minds about Him they would be crushed by that stone.
- B. This first invitation was directly aimed at the religious leaders of Jesus’ day, but it can apply to many others today.
 1. It can apply to those who claim the title “Christian” but do not earn that title by faithful submission and obedience. They have been invited to salvation via Christ but make all kinds of excuses not to be saved.
 2. It can also, sadly, apply to many in the Lord’s church (or at least in the buildings); those who have heard, believed, repented, confessed, and obeyed, but have since come up with all manners of excuses not to continue in faithful submissive obedience.
 3. Both of these groups of excuse makers fall into the camp of those Jesus discussed in Matt. 7:13-27; esp. vv 21-23.

II. The second invitation (vv 8-13).

- A. Since the first invitation was ignored, the second invitation goes out to all, even those least likely to receive such an invitation.
 1. Jesus spoke this in the context of His ministry among the “sinners” in the county (Matt. 9:11-13).
 2. Jesus spoke this in anticipation of the Great Commission that would be given to His apostles to take the Gospel to all people everywhere and every-when (Matt. 28:18-20).
- B. This incredibly gracious invitation is still contingent upon the attendees being properly “attired”.
 1. Note that the man at the feast, invited by the Lord, was found to not be suitable dressed. Note that this man was not given the proper dress by the Lord, nor was he asked to simply “try again” with regards to his attire. The man was bound and cast into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (descriptions by Jesus of hell-Matt. 13:40-42). This dispels much false teaching (Universalism, Calvinism, Purgatory, etc.).
 2. The “dress” required is Christ-likeness (Rom. 8:29). Those who do not conform to the world (the broad way that leads to destruction) but strive to be transformed into the likeness of Christ via His word (the narrow and difficult way) have the proper “attire” to attend the great wedding feast in Heaven (Rev. 21:9-22:21).

III. THE invitation (v14).

- A. Truly many are called but few are chosen. Actually all are called, but few will actually respond to the invitation with the humble, thankfulness manifested in a pursuit of Christ-likeness.
- B. Notice calling comes before choosing. Like foreknowledge coming before predestining, order is very important for understanding. All are called but few are chosen, why? John 6:44, 45 provides the answer. All who would be saved are invited to partake of the salvation of God by means of the faith once revealed for all (Rom. 5:1, 2; Jude 3). God has determined the criteria for salvation and invites all to comply and never to die!!
- C. THE Invitation.

MORE ON “AN INVITATION TO HEAVEN”

1. Universal Nature of Salvation.

Universal Need = Rom. 3:23; John 14:6

Universal Invitation = John 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9

Universal Grace = 1 John 2:2; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15; Heb. 10:10

Universal Faith = Jude 3; Rom. 3:28-30; reason for Great Commission (Mk. 16:15 + Gal. 1:6-9).

Eph. 4:4-6

2. An invitation to Israel = Is. 1:15-20 (cp. Amos 5).

3. An Invitation to all = Is. 55:1-13.

4. The invitation of Jesus = Matt. 11:28-30.

5. Conveyed to the whole world = Matt. 28:18-20 (John 17:20).

6. The Bible actually ends with two invitations:

- An invitation to all who would be saved and drink of the Waters of Life (Rev. 22:17-19). Notice this invitation includes terms of admission, just like the “attire” of the parable.

- An invitation to Jesus to come quickly (Rev. 22:20)!!

WILL YOU COME???!!!