

God's Calling Requirements
Part 27
The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

“1 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. 4 “Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’ 5 “But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. 6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 8 “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9 So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ 10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 12 He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless. 13 “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 22:1-13)

Jesus our friend is speaking about the kingdom of God in a form of parable. He used the allegory of wedding invitation. We know that Jesus is the bridegroom and we His church is the bride and when He will come again we will meet Him in the air and we will be with Him forever and when will meet him, then the Wedding Supper of the Lamb will take place, ***“5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying: “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both great and small!” 6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.) 9 Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.” (Revelation 19:5-9)***

The Lord spoke that parable and he was hitting the Pharisees who were opposing Him. The King is God the Father who sent His son the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to bring to us the message of salvation as He died on the cross for our sins to give us eternal life.

He invited his people by sending them His servants, once and twice He sent them, ***“3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. 4 “Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.”*** All of us are God’s servants and we need to go forward and invite the people to come to Christ, to follow Him and to take Him as King over their lives, and in this way we are inviting them to the wedding supper of the Lamb that will take place in heaven when Jesus come. Those whom we are inviting they will be with us and celebrate together being with the Lord and forever.

The response to the invitations of the servants to the people who were invited was not good. They refused to come and everyone of them had his own reason of refusal, their personal things and plans they gave more priority than to response to God’s call to them, ***5 “But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business.”*** And some of them were aggressive and persecuted God’s servants, ***“6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them.”*** When you go and preach the gospel and invite the people you should not discouraged when the people are not paying attention or when the people they prioritize other personal things over the call of God in their lives. You may even be ill treated or spoken bad of you, but you should not give up, and you need to focus on God and to continue to serve Him. That what the Israelites did with all the prophets that God had sent to help them and even with Jesus that God sent to save us. They conspired against Him and crucified him on the cross.

The Lord was angry with His people who did that, and we know that the city of Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. ***“7 The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.”*** God judged the Jewish for their sins and their bad response to the message of Jesus. And the Lord will continue to deal appropriately and at the right time with those who do not respond to God’s call in their lives.

But the mission of God does not end with that, but continued, ***“8Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9 So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.”*** Jesus after His resurrection from the dead and before His ascension to heaven He commissioned His disciple to go and preach the gospel and to make disciples. And even to this day, the church is commissioned and is responsible before the Lord to go forward to preach the gospel and to make disciples. We go together and we invite new people to follow Christ. We don’t give up and we do not discourage till everyone hear the good news of Jesus. That is why there are various church ministries that purpose to reach certain new people and to bring them to the knowledge of Christ.

Now you need to know and to accept that when the people come and accept the invitation that does not mean that we are done. Even to those who are newly believed in Christ, they need to be taught, disciplined and disciplined and it is required from them to follow Christ wholeheartedly. The reason behind that, the Lord criteria is not changed; everyone who believes Christ should finally follow Him wholeheartedly, and at the end there is judgment. In the parable of the wedding banquet we can read that even those who were responded to the invitation were scrutinized and judged, ***“11 But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 12 He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.”*** That picture about Judgment we should anticipate and apply measures in our service and ministry that sin in the church mission and ministry needed to be addressed scrutinized and properly dealt with. That is important because final judgment is awaiting everyone, even those who responded to the invitation, for with God there is no favoritism: ***“13 “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*** Heaven is real and hell is real and we need to preach about them both. With the salvation of Jesus, repentance will bring us to heaven, but living in sin will bring us to hell.

Speaking about the application of this message on the life of the churches we can say the following:

- 1- Churches and souls of people rejoice with the salvation of Jesus, and are privileged that we accepted Christ and we are called Christian by His name. We are blessed and better than the Jewish, Muslims, Hindus, Puddist and the rest who rejected Christ, ***“8Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.’”***
- 2- Churches, ministries and ministers endeavor to preach the gospel and to reach new people. Resources and material things are invested in reaching the lost. TV, Satellites, Crusades, Evangelism and Media, workers and ministers are all employed for this purpose to reach new people and give them the message about Jesus, ***“9 So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ 10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.”***
- 3- Churches should focus on discipleship and teaching them the ways of God and how to live in accordance to God’s will, because judgment is coming sure, ***“11But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 12 He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless. 13 “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*** Church meetings should not be directed toward activities, functions and programs that are entertainment in origin and worldly in purpose. Receiving Christ and not following Him is of no credit. The Holy Spirit and the gifts of God should be used to edify the church members. Churches, ministries, workers and ministers should be aware that Jesus would deal strictly with His church and His disciples at the time of the final judgment.
- 4- Those who are friends of Jesus are the faithful disciples and ought to teach people the correct way of life and warn them not to sin because judgment is coming. Even if people would be angry with us, and even if we cause them wounds, we still we need to teach them and correct them to fit themselves into the Word of God, ***“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.” (Proverbs 27:6)*** Even if the people got embarrassed, put to shame and get humiliated, continue to do so for you are truly serving them and protecting them from falling into sin.

My dear and beloved: God’s word gives you wisdom and understanding and directing you to serve God’s purpose with awareness that you should not give up; continually preaching, making disciples, admonishing, correcting and warning them about the second coming of Christ. God is calling you; therefore commit yourself to this mission and purpose as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I understood well your word. Thank you for your word that makes me understand what is going on around me. Lord I commit myself to the mission and the purpose that you are calling me to be part with. Lord gives me the strength and the boldness, sustains me and provide all my needs to continue to preach, making disciples, admonishing, correcting and warning them about Christ Second Coming and your coming judgment. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Jesus christ



The Bread Of Life

Vol. 17

Issue 31

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