

# You Are Not Excused!

*“When one of those at the table with Him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ But they are all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on the way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ Still another said, ‘I have just got married, so I can’t come.’ The servant came back and reported this to His master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servants, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, crippled, the blind and the lame.’ ‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘What you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, no one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.” (Luke14:15-23)*

“I am busy. I cannot come, maybe next time. Anyhow, I thank you.” “We are busy. We cannot attend. Not this Friday, maybe some other time!” You are trying to invite people to worship Jesus, but they are busy with lots of excuses. The weather is so hot. They do not have extra budget for transportation. They have work, they are tired, and the place is far from them. They have other appointment, and whatever you do, you cannot bring them in. How do you feel? What will you do?

You arranged a big party and invited many friends and guests. But when the time came most of them did not attend. So you felt embarrassed, insulted, abandoned, neglected, and rejected. You spent time, money and effort in preparation. Many dishes are cooked and served. What will you do? Will you allow the prepared food just to be spoiled or wasted? Or, will you just let those who attend to be very full with food and drinks and send them home also with extra wrapped food? The chosen people of God gathered manna for their daily food but were not allowed to keep extra. When the 5,000 people were filled with the multiplied bread and fish, Jesus asked His disciples to gather all the leftovers.

From the above scriptures, Jesus cited the same parable to explain about the kingdom of God. When the invited guests did not come for the banquet, He sent His servant to gather all the sick, the poor, the hungered, the needy and the street people to eat with Him. He wanted His house to be full so He sent His servant to bring in people:

**1. More than one time the guests are invited:** The invited people knew that the king was preparing a big banquet for them. They were supposed to be the guests and were invited ahead of time. But when everything was ready and they were asked to come, they refused with lots of excuses. In the same way, God has sent His only Son, Jesus as a servant to call people to His Kingdom, but many rejected Him. There were certain people that many times were invited like the guests. God sent His servants, pastors, prophets, Evangelists, Christians, one after another to

tell them about the Good News and the Kingdom of God. They were invited several times and were given several chances to meet the Lord Jesus. And why does God give multiple chances to people? Because, **“He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but every one to come to repentance.” (2Peter3:9)**

**2. More than one race of people are invited:** When God faced such attitude of refusal from those of whom He was inviting, He considered seriously to invite other people. When the people who were originally chosen by God rejected Jesus as Saviour and king, He went to invite people from other race, the gentiles. **“As He says in Hosea: I will call them my people who are not my people; and I will call her ‘my loved one’ who is not my loved one, and it will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, ‘you are not my people.’ they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’ (Romans9:25-26)** John the Baptist also spoke to the high category of people, the Pharisees and the Sadducees in the same manner, **“And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our Father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.” (Matthew3:9)**

**3. More than one type of people are invited:** God is faithful and is never unjust. He has given opportunity to everyone to become part of His Kingdom. He has invited the rich, the famous, the learned, the young and healthy people. He invited them all beside the poor, the lame, the crippled, the blind, the old, widow, and sinners. But the rich and healthy hardly come because they are busy with their own activities. For them Jesus is an unnecessary person. While to the poor and afflicted, Jesus is the only precious hope and fame, and they immediately respond to God’s invitation. And God is so generous that while there is still room, **“the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the road and country lanes and make them come that my house will be full.’” (Luke14:23)** **“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on Him and receive eternal life.” (1Timothy1:15-16)**

**4. More than one apology but no excuse accepted:** You may say, people are really very busy and certain people are oppressed, confused, deceived, undiscerning, and unwise to accept the invitation for the banquet. But, test them by offering a personal benefit, like doing with them a small business. And you will find them not busy, so intelligent and smart, not wanting to be late or to miss a thing. You see them coming quickly and without any excuse. In fact, they will look for you, follow you, and try to please you.

**My Dear and Beloved:** The invitation to the banquet is the invitation to enter the kingdom of God. It is endless but the chance to make the right decision is time constrained. It might be that if you refuse today the Lord gives your seat to the hungry and thirsty. If you decide to accept the invitation, say this prayer from your heart:

**My Prayer:** *Father God, I thank you for your Son Jesus who died for me on the cross. Forgive me my sins. Renew my heart and my thoughts. I desire to eat with You and dine with You in Your Kingdom. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name Amen!*