

You Are Invited...

Luke 14:15-24

# You Are Invited...

- James 4:2 - “You do not have because you do not ask”
- How different would your life be if you had not received an invitation to hear the gospel?

# Bible Invitations

- An invitation by Jesus - John 1:35-39
- An invitation by Andrew - John 1:40-42
- An invitation by Jesus - John 1:43-44
- An invitation by Philip - John 1:45-51
- An invitation by Jesus - John 4:1-26
- An invitation by the Samaritan woman -  
John 4:27-42

# Bible Invitations

- An invitation for a rich, young man
  - Mark 10:21-22 - “Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me. 22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

# Bible Invitations

- Our invitation
  - 2Thes. 2:13-14 - “But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
  - 2Tim. 1:9-10 - “Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”

# Our Role In Invitations

- It is not within our power to convert people to Jesus
  - 1Cor. 3:6-7 - “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.”
- It is our obligation to call people to the gospel that can change them.
  - Rom. 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

# Our Role In Invitations

- Luke 14:15-24
  - God is the preparer of the feast.
  - His servants are left with the task of inviting.
  - Rejection was not a reason for the servant to stop inviting.
  - There is a sense of urgency about the invitation.
- What can be learned about invitations from this call to the feast?

# Our Role In Invitations

- “Messengers are sent to invite the guests to a Mideastern feast, not just the relatives, but all persons of the same caste in the neighborhood, are invited. A refusal to attend is considered as a great offense.” (Clarke)
- “Compel them to come in” from anagkason, means “Prevail on them by the most earnest entreaties, prayers, and counsels” (Barnes)

# Our Role In Invitations

- “Go out quickly.” The feast is ready. There is no time to lose. They who partake of it must do it soon. The gospel is ready, time flies, and they who partake of the gospel must do it soon, and they who preach it must give diligence to speedily proclaim it to their fellow-men.” (Gill)

# Our Role In Invitations

- “The streets and lanes of the city.” The places where the poor would be found. Those first invited were the rich who dwelt at ease in their own houses. By these the Jews were intended; those in the streets, the Gentiles. The Lord delivered this parable to show the Jews that the Gentiles would be called into the kingdom of God.” (Clarke)

# Our Role In Invitations

- A hedge is the enclosure around a field or vineyard. It was commonly made of thorns, planted thick, and kept foraging animals out of the vineyard.
- “A common plant for this purpose is a species of cactus, which grows several feet high, and as thick as a man's body, armed with sharp thorns, forming an almost impervious defense” (P. Hackett, Scripture Illustrations, p. 174).

# Our Role In Invitations

- “Those in the hedges were poor laborers employed in planting or trimming them; men of the lowest class and of greatest poverty. By directing them to go first into the homes, then the streets of the city, then into the highways, and finally to the hedges, Jesus was not referring to different classes of men, but denoting the earnestness with which God offers salvation to all men, that even the most despised should come” (Barnes NT Commentary)

# Our Role In Invitations

- “I say to you that none of these men...” God gets to decide who is not worthy of an invitation, not us.
- “No one who decidedly rejected the offer of the gospel would be saved. It is dangerous it is once to reject the gospel; how dangerous to grieve away the Holy Spirit. The invitation is full and free; but when it is rejected, and men turn willfully away from it, God leaves them to their chosen way, and they are drowned in destruction and perdition. How important, then, is it to embrace the gospel at once; to accept the invitation, and enter without delay the path that leads to heaven!” (Clarke)

# Our Role In Invitations

- Prov. 1:24-31
- Heb. 12:25 - “See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven”

# Our Role In Invitations

- Statistics overwhelmingly show that of the vast majority of conversions that take place, most occur because someone extended an invitation.
- We are God's instrument of invitation
- Who knows how history could be changed for others, how their lives can be affected long after we have left this world, by the power of a simple invitation.