

(continuing from sermon 10)

People are always rejecting God's invitation. Why? Not because they have to but because they *want* to.

John 5:40 (TLB):

<sup>40</sup> *Yet you won't come to me so that I can give you this life eternal!*

When I stand at the judgment seat of Christ  
And He shows me His plan for me.  
The plan of my life as it might have been  
Had He had His way, and I see.  
How I blocked Him here, and I checked Him there,  
And I would not yield my will—  
Will there be grief in my Savior's eyes,  
Grief, though He loves me still?  
He would have me rich, and I stand there poor,  
Stripped of all but His grace,  
While memory runs like a hunted thing  
Down the **paths I cannot retrace.**  
Then my desolate heart will well-nigh break  
With the tears that I cannot shed;  
I shall cover my face with my empty hands,  
I shall bow my uncrowned head...

Lord of the years that are left to me, I give them to Thy hand; Take me and break me, mold me to The pattern Thou hast planned! <sup>1</sup>
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We might entitle this story "*The Wise Fool.*" If there is one person that should always be greeted with open arms, it is one who brings the invitation to the **King's Great Marriage Feast** for His Son. However, how are these messengers often greeted? They are often unwelcome, mistreated, persecuted, and yes, often killed. How fortunate that this person realized the need for change before his eternity was sealed in Hell.

1 Corinthians 4:11-13 (TLB):

<sup>11</sup> *To this very hour we [apostles]<sup>1</sup> have gone hungry and thirsty, without even enough clothes to keep us warm. We have been kicked around without homes of our own.*

<sup>12</sup> *We have worked wearily with our hands to earn our living. We have blessed those who cursed us. We have been patient with those who injured us.*

<sup>13</sup> *We have replied quietly when evil things have been said about us. Yet right up to the present moment **we are like dirt underfoot, like garbage.***

**God judged Israel for rejecting His invitation.**Matthew 22:7-8 (TLB):

<sup>7</sup> *Then the angry king sent out his army and **destroyed the murderers** and burned their city.*

<sup>8</sup> *And he said to his servants, “The wedding feast is ready, and the guests I invited **aren’t worthy** of the honor.”*

Some interpret this verse to refer to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by Titus. Perhaps such an application can be made, but it would mean that the death referred to is only physical death and destruction. That is not what Jesus meant. He was talking about the **eternal judgment** which will occur when He returns at the end of the Tribulation. God’s Wrath will fall on all who reject the Gospel (1 Thessalonians 2:15-16). This is a parable, so the reference to armies and the burned city tell us that the Jews had the privilege of attending the Great Marriage Feast of God’s only Son, but the people of Israel rejected the invitation even killing the King’s messengers. They therefore willingly rejected their privileged opportunity to be the first people saved by God’s grace through faith. Consequently, they will be judged to the full extent of the Law and spend eternity in Hell, a fate that awaits all people who refuse to accept God’s invitation to salvation and eternal life. They were not worthy of the honor to attend the Feast and wedding. When we reject God, it is not God who sends us to Hell. We are responsible for where we go because we are the ones who accept or reject the offer. God gives us fair warning throughout the Bible, so we have no excuse!

2 Thessalonians 1:6-9 (NASB):

<sup>6</sup> *For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,*

<sup>7</sup> *and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,*

<sup>8</sup> ***dealing out retribution to those who do not know God** and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*

<sup>9</sup> ***These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction,** away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,*

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<sup>1</sup> Brackets added.

Some of you may be wondering just what it means **to be judged** by God and this is clearly something we all need to be aware of.

Jesus will prevent all who have rejected Christ from entering the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 8:5-13 (NLT):

- <sup>5</sup> *When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him,*
- <sup>6</sup> *“Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain.”*
- <sup>7</sup> *Jesus said, “I will come and heal him.”*
- <sup>8</sup> *But the officer said, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed.*
- <sup>9</sup> *I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, ‘Go,’ and they go, or ‘Come,’ and they come. And if I say to my slaves, ‘Do this,’ they do it.”*
- <sup>10</sup> *When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, “I tell you the truth, **I haven’t seen faith like this in all Israel!***
- <sup>11</sup> *And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at **the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven.***
- <sup>12</sup> *But **many Israelites**—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into **outer darkness**, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*
- <sup>13</sup> *Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, “Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened.” And the young servant was healed that same hour.*

This rejection of unbelievers by Jesus will lead to a judgment which will be terrifying! So terrifying that your number one priority in life should be to make sure you will never face this kind of judgment! Jesus predicted that the Jews who continued to deny Jesus as Savior until their death would perish. They are rejected by God in spite of the fact that they were the chosen people of God that had been given so many privileges.<sup>2</sup>

Now here is an accurate description of Hell. There will be **outer darkness**, a place of pitch black where you cannot see the hand in front of your face. There will be no light and no hope. It is a place of total darkness in which one lives in a weakened, helpless, and hopeless condition. It is far away from the magnificence, glory and brightness of God's presence. It is being cast into the blackness and of the outer world. It will be the worst kind of misery, the misery of a lost soul without anyone to share your existence; no friends, no relatives, no one.<sup>3</sup>

Matthew 22:11-14 (NASB):

- <sup>11</sup> *"But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes,*
- <sup>12</sup> *and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding*

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<sup>2</sup> *The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible – Matthew*, (Chattanooga: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 1991), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "B. Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant: Receiving and Rejecting Men, 8:5-13".

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

*clothes?' And the man was speechless.*

<sup>13</sup> *"Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the **outer darkness**; in that place there will be **weeping and gnashing of teeth**.'*

<sup>14</sup> *"For many are called, but few are chosen."*

There will be weeping: loud grief, mourning, groaning, wailing, and rivers of tears. There will be **gnashing of teeth** (*brugmos*<sup>PWS:1708</sup>): grinding; biting in hostility and bitterness and outrage. It is rage, fury, and despair because nothing can be done. A person's eternity is permanently sealed and as we've said before there are no second chances and no do-overs. The Catholic concept of purgatory was simply made up by the Catholic Church to make people feel better, but it does not appear anywhere in the Bible. *"And just as it is destined that men die only once, and after that comes judgment"* [Hebrews 9:27 (TLB)].<sup>4</sup>

Your *"Get into Heaven Free"* card is offered based on your doing one thing and one thing only: **having faith in Christ**. Heritage, godly parents and children, religious profession, baptism, and church membership—all are useless without faith. Without faith, man has only the judgment of God to look forward to.<sup>5</sup>

Now God sends His messengers to go out into the highways of the world and invite all people to the Great Wedding Feast of His Son. This reference is to the Gentiles (all people who are not Jews). God's chosen people rejected their Messiah (Jesus), so God offered Him to all the other people in the world.

Matthew 22:9-10 (NASB):

<sup>9</sup> *'Go therefore to the **main highways**, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.'*

<sup>10</sup> *"Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests."*

Most of these people would have never expected an invitation to a King's wedding.

Acts 10:34-36 (MSG):

<sup>34</sup> *Peter fairly exploded with his good news: "It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites!"*

<sup>35</sup> *It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open.*

<sup>36</sup> *The Message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—well, **he's doing it everywhere, among everyone.***

Romans 10:9-13 (NASB):

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved;**

<sup>10</sup>for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

<sup>11</sup>For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

<sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;

<sup>13</sup>for **"WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."**

1 Timothy 2:3-4 (NASB):

<sup>3</sup>This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

<sup>4</sup>**who desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

God's messengers were told to invite both the good and the bad. The Church is made up of both.

Matthew 13:1-23 (NASB):

<sup>1</sup>That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea.

<sup>2</sup>And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach.

<sup>3</sup>And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow;

<sup>4</sup>and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.

<sup>5</sup>"Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil.

<sup>6</sup>"But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

<sup>7</sup>"Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.

<sup>8</sup>"And others fell on the good soil and \*yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

<sup>9</sup>"He who has ears, let him hear."

<sup>10</sup>And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

<sup>11</sup>Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

<sup>12</sup>"For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.

<sup>13</sup>"Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

<sup>14</sup>"In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;

<sup>15</sup>FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND

*RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'*

<sup>16</sup> *"But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.*

<sup>17</sup> *"For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.*

<sup>18</sup> *"Hear then the parable of the sower.*

<sup>19</sup> *"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.*

<sup>20</sup> *"The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;*

<sup>21</sup> *yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.*

<sup>22</sup> *"And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.*

<sup>23</sup> *"And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."*

Matthew 9:13 (NLT):

<sup>13</sup> *Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, **but those who know they are sinners.**"*

Luke 19:10 (NLT):

<sup>10</sup> *For the Son of Man came to seek and save **those who are lost.**"*

Isaiah 55:1-3 (TLB):

<sup>1</sup> *"Say there! Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink—even if you have no money!*

*Come, take your choice of wine and milk—it's all free!*

<sup>2</sup> *Why spend your money on food that doesn't give you strength? Why pay for groceries that do you no good? Listen and I'll tell you where to get good food that fattens up the soul!*

<sup>3</sup> *"Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, for **the life of your soul is at stake.** I am ready to make an everlasting covenant with you, to give you all the unfailing mercies and love that I had for King David.*

"God's confrontation with the guests was a momentous occasion. However, note the emphasis of this parable. The emphasis was not on the joy and festivity of the Marriage Feast, but on a guest who came improperly dressed for the occasion. A man tried to attend the wedding without the proper clothing. He was not clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ (Matthew 22: 11-14)."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> *The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible – Matthew*, (Chattanooga: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 1991),

God entered the banquet hall to see the guests. As He entered He saw the man without wedding clothes. The words "to see" (*theasasthai*<sup>PWS: 3404</sup>) mean to closely look over and inspect. God sees and inspects this man. God entered the hall *for the purpose* of looking over and inspecting the guests to make sure everything was as it should be for His Son's great celebration.<sup>7</sup>

2 Corinthians 5:21 (TLB):

<sup>21</sup> *For God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us!*

Romans 5:1 (TLB):

<sup>1</sup> *So now, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith in his promises, we can have real peace with him because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.*

The guests weren't aware that the man was not wearing acceptable clothes, but the King did. The man misled the others, but the King knew the kind of dress He had required for all the guests to wear. The man was clearly showing disrespect and dishonor to the king by not following His instructions for the proper clothing.

He asked the man before the feast began, "*Friend, why have you come not wearing a wedding garment?*" He could not allow an eyesore to detract from the joyful occasion. He had to deal with this intruder. The man had been invited and he was responsible for obtaining the righteous article of clothing.<sup>8</sup>

Ephesians 4:24 (NLT):

<sup>24</sup> *Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.*

Ephesians 4:1 (NLT):

<sup>1</sup> *Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.*

The man was speechless (*ephimōthē*<sup>PWS: 3690</sup>). He had no excuse. He had shown disrespect and dishonor toward the king for wearing what was not proper for such an occasion. This garment was unclean.<sup>9</sup>

**End of Part 11 Sermon for 6/22 Beginning of Part 12 Sermon for 6/29**

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WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "G. The Parable of the Marriage Feast: Israel's Rejection of God's Great Invitation, 22:1-14".

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.