

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Twenty

GOSPEL PRESENTATION (1):

GOD'S INVITATION AND MAN'S EXCUSES FOR REFUSING SALVATION

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see that God prepared a "great dinner" and has lovingly invited sinful man to attend. Although God has prepared "so great a salvation" (Heb. 2:3) by giving His only begotten Son to die on the cross, most men will neglect His gracious invitation to salvation, using various ridiculous excuses. However, the Lord will find some who do not think so highly of themselves or trust in their riches or capability and they will respond to His wonderful invitation to salvation by repenting and receiving the Lord Jesus.

Memory Verse: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Luke 14:15-24]

1. God's preparation of salvation:
 - a. God has prepared salvation for all men. Salvation is likened to an honorable, inwardly satisfying, and enjoyable feast.
 - b. Two thousand years ago, after the Lord Jesus died upon the cross for sins and arose from the dead to be our life, God declared, "Come, for it is now ready." The enjoyment of this feast is the redeeming blood of Christ and the resurrection life of Christ. (This is like the bread and wine at the Lord's table.)
2. God's invitation:

The invitation to this great feast of God's salvation has been extended to all men through the Holy Spirit. Our hearing of the gospel is our invitation.
3. Man's excuses:

The first group of men made ridiculous excuses and politely refused to come to God's great dinner. In this way they rejected God's salvation.

 - a. Surely, no one buys land without first examining it thoroughly.
 - b. Surely, no one would buy five yolk of oxen without first proving them.
 - c. Surely, any newly married couple could not go out to a dinner invitation.
4. Those who willingly accepted the invitation:

The Spirit then extended the invitation to those who were poor and crippled, blind and lame. They made no excuse but instead came gladly.

(Continued)

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Twenty (Continued)

5. God's compelling:
 - a. Because not many people willingly respond to God's invitation to salvation, God must "compel" them to salvation.
 - b. Many people only turn to God after a serious accident or problem arises in their life or family.
6. How to respond to the invitation:
 - a. Be humble and confess that you are a sinner.
 - b. Repent and turn to the Lord.
 - c. Receive Christ and His redemption.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON TWENTY

1. In Luke 14:16 God's rich and wonderful salvation is compared to a _____.
2. Since when has the "dinner" of God's salvation been made "ready" for us? (Luke 14:17; Rom. 5:8).
3. What was the real reason the people who were invited didn't come?
4. The Lord of the feast sympathized with their reasons for not coming to the feast and kindly forgave them all.
True _____ False _____
5. How does God sometimes "compel" people to receive His salvation?