



The Great Divine Appointment

“... Come; for all things are now ready” (Luke 14:17).

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What a person does with invitations reflect not only his / her understandings or the lack of it, but also his / her values and priorities in life. It also determines the nature of future relationships with the host, opportunities and destiny.

“And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. 16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: 17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. 18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. 19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. 20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. 21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. 22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. 23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper” (Luke 14:15-24).

In this parable, Jesus is giving a message about the special invitation that is open to all mankind, and of which our responses will separate the wise from the fool as well as well as permanently seal the eternal destiny of multitudes. It is an illustration about the marriage feast of the lamb, immediately after the rapture of believers; and of the qualifying criteria for eating meal in the Kingdom of God. We learn from this that:

1) Blessed are those that shall eat bread in the

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kingdom of God (vs 15). The bible is very clear that there are only two kingdoms, and that those who miss the kingdom of God only end up in hell fire. This is not a threat but a statement of fact and reality. Wisdom determines making decisions based on good values and priorities.

- 2) The invitation was issued to many, followed by a reminder nearer the time - reminding us that preponderance of opportunity is not necessarily a route to wise decision, and that **“many are called, but few are chosen”** (Matthew 22:14).
- 3) Failure to value divine opportunities and privileges give rise to flimsy excuses and pre-occupation with distractive activities that damn the soul (2 Kings 20:39-42).
- 4) Activities that fill our lives are not always beneficial in the long term; and may actually cloud our vision of long term values as well as prevent us from making good choices that bring long term benefits.
- 5) A faithful servant will continue delivering his master's message and bringing him feedback, irrespective of the outcomes.
- 6) Failure to value God-given opportunities results in their loss. Note that some opportunities only come but once, and losing them once, is losing them for ever!
- 7) The anger of the master was invoked at the folly of the original invitees resulting in a decision that excluded them. God honours human's free will choices even when they lead to eternal damnation, so that they will be personally responsible for their destiny.
- 8) God's plan can never fail because of man's unfaithfulness or despite (Hosea 8:12).