THE ABUSED INVITATION

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
THE ABUSED INVITATION
Bible Texts: Matthew 22:1-7

Prayer
Father, we thank you this evening for your word that is about to come out. As we begin, be with us and let us be doers of your word, in Jesus' name."

Introduction
I welcome you all in Jesus Christ's name. Please, I want to encourage you all to follow today's study carefully, because it will serve as a foundation for our consecutive studies. And without this foundation, it will be difficult to really understand the coming ones. May the Lord open our understanding in Jesus Christ's name.

Bible Text
Matt.22.1 - And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,
Matt.22.2 - "The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son.
Matt.22.3 - And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.
Matt.22.4 - Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.
Matt.22.5 - But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:
Matt.22.6 - And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

Matt.22.7 - But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Study

It was commonly the practice of the Lord Jesus Christ to teach in parables of earthly things to communicate heavenly and eternal truth. Here is one of the parables which He did not physically interpret. Most times when the Lord does not interpret His parables, it is usually difficult to interpret except by the power of the Holy Ghost. Often, the chief priests and the Pharisees got offended by His parables because He often spoke to them. This did not deter Him from teaching the truth of God's words, whether they loved the truth or not. He continued.

Now it says the parable: The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, and sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. The Lord says the "kingdom of God", most times christians emphasize always on the kingdom of God. We must understand something here. When talking about the kingdom of God, it is in two ways:

1. It is the physical abode of the living God.
2. It is also the experiential presence of the life of God in us; it is the kingdom within us.

Luke 17:21 KJV: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. This talks about the lifestyles of God's kingdom in us. It is much more appropriate to take the kingdom of God and said by the Lord in this parable as an expression on earth, although both are connected one way or the other. The King, who is God Almighty, arranged a marriage for His Son, Jesus Christ. He sent out His servants to call those

who are invited to the wedding. The servants are God's faithful ministers, and this invited people knew that it was the king who sent His servant to them. But they saw no reason to attend the wedding. And since they would not heed the invitation, the king, not relenting in His efforts, decided to send other servants. **Matthew 22:4-6 KJV:** Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise. And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

Looking carefully into this parable, we would see that God is very patient with sinners and is long-suffering towards them. He is not willing that any should perish. He keeps reaching out to them, hoping they can have a change of mind. Every sinner is invited to the banquet, the feast of the gospel that brings salvation. Everything is ready; dinner has been set, oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Everything necessary for the salvation of the sinner has been prepared and made ready by God, and the sinner is invited. All he needs is to come because the Father is ready to accept us. At our coming, we receive justification, we receive the Spirit to sanctify us, pardon is ready, as well as living water for supply. Ordinances are ready, and the angels are ready to attend to us. Therefore, the invitation is to one and to all: come to Christ, accepting the offer to attend the wedding.

Is someone still with me please?

Sadly, those who were invited made light of the invitation and went their ways. They were not concerned and paid no attention, treating it with contempt, and went away—one to his farm, another to his business. Looking into this, we can see that God's

servants are not given attention by the sinful world. Many are less concerned about the message the King has sent out to them through His servant to invite them for the wedding feast of the soul. Some even take God's servant as those who do not have work to do. It is one thing to reject it consciously, but it is another thing to treat it insignificantly. Both bring the same repercussions. Today, sinners, who are the invited guests, ignore the servants of God and their message and go about their day-to-day work, since that is where their minds are. When we go about attending to things other than the cares of the Lord, we treat His invitation with contempt. It is dangerous for the soul to run after its loss, which is temporal, rejecting eternal enjoyment. One went to his farm, and another to his business.

These things are not sins. For anyone who would not work should not eat; these are mediums of livelihood. But they put so much concern on the things they would eat, rather than the things that call for eternal glory. In the same way today, we run helter-skelter to cater for our daily needs and forsake the message the King has sent out to invite us for the wedding of His Son. We are after how to survive, especially in this time of the world, and we have put little or no effort on the things of God. **Matthew 22:6 KJV:** And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

Looking at this, you can see that the rest, that is, those who did not go far or have any business by which to earn a living, became the murderers of the King's servants. It was the scribes, Pharisees, and chief priests who were the culprits. They took the servants, treated them spitefully, and slew them. We would see that the King got furious and sent out His armies—that is, the Roman armies—and they destroyed those murderers.

Matthew 22:7 KJV: But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.
And He burned up their city. Those who despised the message were not killed, but the murderers. The Jews were the ones to whom the invitation was first sent out, but they rejected it, persecuted the preachers, and killed the ministers of God, which made God destroy their city. God is jealous over His ministers, and the persecution of Christ's faithful ministers fills the measure of guilt more than anything. The ruin itself that came was the direct result of the armies. The Roman armies were His physical instrument used to treat them down. These armies destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

This points out very plainly the destruction of the Jews and the burning of Jerusalem by the Romans 40 years after this. The desolation of Jerusalem was so great that no age ever saw more of the serious effects of fire and sword. It must be noted that although Jerusalem had been a holy city—the city that God had chosen to put His name—by becoming a harlot, righteousness was far away from it, and it became full of murderers. **Isaiah 1:21 KJV**: How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.

Judgment came upon it without remedy. This is made an example to all who would oppose Christ and His gospel, that their destruction will also be without remedy, and this would be carried out by His armies, His holy angels. This is a discourse for sober reflection on our lives. If God would destroy Jerusalem, His beloved city, for its iniquitous lifestyle—despite being holy in the past—how much more will He deal with those who see themselves as His beloved but choose to keep living like unbelievers? When, as God's beloved, we go about our lawful businesses, taking our focus away from what really

matters—namely, the kingdom of God—we end up making our businesses unlawfully managed. No matter what we do, we must keep our eye on, and place priority on, the matters of religion.
The business and profit of worldly enjoyment prove to be a great hindrance for many when it comes to following Christ. Many people do not heed the call to the feast but instead offer excuses as to why they will not respond to the gospel. It is true that both farmers and merchants must be diligent in their work, but not to the extent that it keeps them from making their relationship with God their main business. We must understand that whatever we do on earth, our priority should be on the matters of religion. By putting our work above the kingdom of God, we are prioritizing the "added things" above the original purpose.

Matthew 6:33 KJV: But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.
Truly, there are temptations here and there, ready to distract us from our religious duty to the Lord. We must remember that whatever we have of the world in our hands, our care must be to keep it out of our hearts, lest it come between us and Christ. This is the offense of those who were invited to the wedding: they placed the cares of this world above the gospel. What have you also placed above the gospel in your life? It is a matter of the heart. Check your heart—do you miss Bible studies because of your business or even church services? What is that thing stopping you from having your personal time with God? Some are farms and businesses.

Who is that person that feels more important to you than Christ? What is that pleasure you cannot do without that has relegated Christ in your heart? Is it movies, songs, sleep, sex, chatting, partying, or other distractions? We must remember that there cannot be any acceptable excuse before God for neglecting His call. Though we see our excuses as genuine, no matter how valid

we think they are, they do not excuse us from God's judgment and its consequences. In conclusion, this teaching serves as a reminder that God's invitation to partake in His kingdom is not to be taken lightly. The parable illustrates the danger of neglecting our spiritual responsibilities in favor of worldly pursuits. The excuses we make, no matter how justified they may seem, do not hold weight before God. The kingdom of God must be our highest priority, and we must diligently examine our hearts to ensure nothing stands between us and our commitment to Christ. Let us remember that God, in His patience, continually invites us to fellowship with Him. But there will come a time when the door will close, and those who refused His call will face the consequences of their choices.

May we respond to His call with urgency, putting aside all distractions, and focusing on living in alignment with His will. As we seek first His kingdom, everything else will fall into place according to His plan. Let us make our relationship with God the core of our lives, so that we may partake in the eternal feast prepared for us.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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