

“Come and Get It!”—Matthew 22:8-10

The text for this sermon, the theme of which is, “Come and Get It!”, is Matthew 22:8-10 → *Then the king said to his servants, “The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.” And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.*

This is the text.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus:

“Come and get!” The days of ringing a dinner bell and yelling “Come and get!” are probably a thing of the past in most households. For that matter, the practice of family sitting down together at a dinner table to share a meal is a rarity in many households today, except maybe on special occasions like Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter.

With such busy schedules, careers and the instant demands of technology, many people find themselves barely having time to plan and implement meals together, turning “Come and get!” into “Go and get it.” As one watches people sharing a meal together even when they “go out to eat” one wonders if they’re really together because they’re either on their smart phones or watching the monitors/tvs.

Apparently being too busy to share a meal together is nothing new according to Jesus' parable of the wedding feast. When the feast was prepared and ready to eat, those invited *paid no attention* to the persistent desire of the king to share his meal with them. Instead, they *went off, one to his farm, another to his business*. Some were so adamantly opposed to this feast that they seemed to interpret the king's persistence as "harassment," *seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them*, thus bringing the judgment of death upon themselves (cf. Matthew 22:5-7; Matthew 21:43). It was a picture of the religious leaders of God's people to whom Jesus was speaking. It stresses the consequences of ignoring God's gracious invitation of salvation, received only through faith in Jesus Christ alone!

Sadly many people (even in Christian congregations) react like the invited guests by refusing to accept the invitation, sometimes even reacting in a very violent manner. I've heard many express the fear of rejection **by their own brothers and sisters in Christ** at the thought of inviting them to take part in the Lord's Supper with the assembly of believers in worship. Something is sadly wrong if a Christian rejects, gets defensive or refuses to receive the encouragement, admonishment and guidance of God's Word given by his brother or sister in Christ.

If a Christian refuses to repent and heed the invitation to feed on Christ's forgiveness he is no Christian. Why would a Christian refuse to

gather with other Christians in worship to receive and share the forgiveness of sins which is theirs in Christ Jesus? It is because the devil deceives people so that they cling to unrepentant sin or wanting the forgiveness of sins on their own terms instead of submitting to God's terms (cf. Matthew 22:11-12).

While the king's persistence in this parable pictures God's patience toward us sinners, the tragedy of the parable is that those who were invited simply preferred not to come. 1 Timothy 2:3-6 says that *God our Savior . . . desires all people to be saved* through faith in the *one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself as a ransom **for all**. He wants **everyone** to feast at His heavenly banquet in His presence forever!* God's will for people has never changed. Therefore, He won't let the rejection of His gracious invitation by some prevent the banquet from taking place.

Thus, throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus was constantly saying: "Come and get it!"—calling people to "feast" on the blessings of forgiveness of sins, a new life and the eternal salvation which God had prepared for them in His Person & Work. This is pictured by the king telling *his servants* in verse 9 of our text: *Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.*

Jesus was speaking this parable specifically as judgment upon the Jewish religious leaders of His day and they knew it. Matthew 21:45

says *when the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking about them.* It was a judgment upon their treatment of God's servants (i.e. prophets and priests) throughout the history of the Church. Jesus even wept over this while on His way to the city where He would be killed by these religious leaders. In Matthew 23:37 Jesus said: *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!* One loses the blessings of the kingdom of God through unrepentance and refusal to receive those blessings **on God's terms only.**

Even though the invitation is extended to all people, there is still provisions involved with eating at the banquet which must be done **on God's terms, not on your own terms.** Those "terms," as pictured by the man in the parable who refused to wear the proper *wedding garment*, (cf. Matthew 22:11-12) are expressed by people in various ways. When they insist on striving to partake of the heavenly banquet (i.e. eternal life) by their own good works or thinking they're going to heaven by having membership in a congregation. It is also expressed when they live based upon a situational ethics where the individual decides what's right or wrong for him based upon the circumstances of the moment,

instead of God's absolute truth—His written Word. It expresses itself by a convenient “commitment” where being committed to Jesus happens only when it involves the least sacrifice, suffering or work.

“Come and get!” That is still the invitation which is extended to you today. It is an invitation based upon the accomplished work of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. It is an invitation which calls you to “feast” on that forgiveness by accepting God's invitation to the banquet **on His terms**—repenting and placing your faith **totally** in Jesus Christ. It is an invitation signed in the blood of Jesus and sealed by the Holy Spirit! It is an invitation based completely upon the work of the Holy Spirit in your heart and life! It is an invitation which stands on the basis of Jesus' promise in John 6:37 → *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will **never** cast out.*

You are amongst the *many who are called* as well as *the few who are chosen* (cf. Matthew 22:14) in the righteousness of Jesus. Respond to God's invitation **on His terms**—by repenting of your sins and placing your faith **totally** in His Son's life, death and resurrection for you! 2 Corinthians 5:21 says: *For our sake God made Him to be sin Who knew no sin (i.e. Jesus), so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. We are actually “clothed” in His righteousness by faith in Him!*

The invitation is still the same: “Come and get it!” And the response

God wants is still the same—to thankfully receive His heavenly blessings by humble repentance and faith in Jesus! Amen.

*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God,
for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.*

(Isaiah 61:10)

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