“Good” Excuses

**Reading - Luke 14:16-24**

The gospel of Jesus is very much an invitation.

 ***Romans 1:5‑7 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; 7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called [to be] saints:***

 ***Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to [His] purpose. (NKJV)***

***1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called [to be] saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: (NKJV)***

Excuses reflect the general attitude of all the invited guests resulting in God’s attitude toward them. ***(Psalms 106:12-15) Then they believed His words; They sang His praise. {13} They soon forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel, {14} But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tested God in the desert. {15} And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.***

**Every guest believed he had legitimate reasons for not attending the great supper.**

***Matthew 22:14 "For many are called, but few [are] chosen." (NKJV)***

***Mark 7:6-7 He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with [their] lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching [as] doctrines the commandments of men.' (NKJV)***

***Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work. (NKJV)***

***Luke 14:26 & 33 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple... [33] "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. (NKJV)***

Don’t think that accepting Christ’s challenge is without rewards: ***Luke 18:28‑30 Then Peter said, "See, we have left all and followed You." 29 So He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, 30 "who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life." (NKJV)***

Will you answer God’s invitation today? ***2 Corinthians 6:1‑2 We then, [as] workers together [with Him] also plead with [you] not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.***

**God does not forgive excuses; He forgives sins.**

***(1 John 1:7-9) But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. {8} If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. {9} If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***