

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

ESTABLISHED 1786

MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

Vol. 2

Lexington, Kentucky

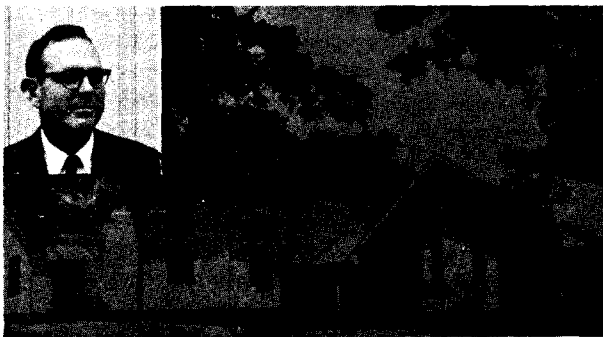
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No. 7

THE FEAST NOBODY WOULD COME TO

BY: C. D. COLE

"Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. 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. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. 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. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. 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. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper" (Luke 14:16-24).



A banquet without guests! Did you ever hear of such a thing? And the excuses given makes it all the more unnatural and unreasonable. If there is anything that people like it is a big feast. The pastor of a small church put on his bulletin board the words "Seats Free." And the following Sunday there was a great crowd pushing and shoving their way into the church. It had never been that way before. It was soon discovered that some prankster had moved the "S" leaving it to read "Eats Free."

Location: 3.3 miles out Bryan Station Road. Right on Briar Hill Road.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
 Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Air-Conditioned

Nursery Provided

Pastor Alfred M. Gormley
 Ph. 299-1430 347 Sierra Drive
 Lexington, Ky. 40505

Our Lord was a great story-teller. His stories were simple and to the point.

They were taken from nature and every-day life and applied for warning, for comfort, or instruction.

He would go to a big dinner and see folk rushing to get the higher seats and teach a lesson on humility. He said it was better to take a low seat and be invited higher than to take the high seat only to be told it was reserved for someone else. Then He would make the application in relation to God: "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

And when He would see who the guests were, He would tell the host that he ought to invite people who could not reciprocate with a dinner for him. He would tell him to do something with eternal blessings in mind. Feed the poor and needy so that he might be recompensed at the resurrection of the just. Brethren, how little we do for eternal reward! Our Lord would draw a parable--tell a story-- from watching a man sow seed, and compare it with preaching the gospel. All the seed sown did not produce a harvest. And so all the gospel preached does not bring results in salvation.

Some of our Lord's stories were unnatural, like the one before us. It had to be like this to illustrate the excuses men give for not trusting Christ. He had to represent men as doing the unnatural or foolish thing to truly represent why men reject the blessings of God in Christ.

Let us look at this story: A man made a great supper and invited many. It was no ordinary feast, but a royal banquet. It was a great honour to get such an invitation from such a royal person. This was a big occasion--a great supper.

The response to this invitation was the most unnatural thing: everybody began to make excuse. Nobody ever heard of such a thing as the way these guests acted. It was usual for those invited to attend. But in this case, nobody wanted to go. What an insult to the great man who gave the supper and sent out invitations! The man regarded it as an insult and was angry. The lesson to be learned from this story is that it is an insult to God to reject the invitation to come to Christ as the bread of life. God is angry with those who do not want His Son as Saviour and Lord. The sin of unbelief is a terrible sin.

Now look at the excuses given by three men. And these were but samples or patterns of all excuses given; for they all with one consent began to make excuse. One man gave as his excuse that he had bought a farm and must go and see it. Had he bought the farm without seeing it? Of course not; he was a better business man than that. The second said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen and must go and prove them." He must have known whether they would work or not before buying them. These two men were quite polite. They begged to be excused. The third man merely sent word that he had married a wife and could not come. He did not ask to be excused. He thought that the fact he had a wife was sufficient explanation. Think of a wife keeping a man from a banquet, when she too is invited. It is usually the other way around. The wife is always ready, but the man may prefer to lounge in robe and slippers and smoke his cigar or watch TV than to be in a crowd. The whole story is unreasonable; it has to be to teach the unreasonableness of rejecting Christ and His salvation.

The lesson: God has provided a great banquet at tremendous cost and everyone who hears the gospel is invited. How unnatural and unreasonable it is to refuse to come. And that is the heart of the story. Lost people do not act naturally--they do not act like sensible men. Their nature is so ruined by sin that they do the strangest things. Think of God setting the gospel table, loading it down with everything needful for salvation--having on it the bread of life which a man may eat and live forever--never die--never be condemned by God, and then see men refuse to come and eat. How is such conduct to be explained? What greater insult can be shown to God? It is like a man refusing to leave a burning building. It is like spitting in the face of a fireman. The men in the story were lying and all their excuses were a shame. They did not go simply because they did not like the man who gave the banquet. The lesson Christ wanted us to get is that all the excuses men give for not believing the gospel and coming to Christ are just so many excuses--and excuses are always lies--not reasons. The trouble is not in the head--it is not intellectual--it is in the heart. An idiot is not responsible.

Modern excuses are no better:

1. Someone says, there are so many things in the Bible I do not understand. Well, I can say the same thing. There are deep things in the Bible. I am glad there are things I cannot understand. If I could understand everything in the Bible, I would know it was not God's word and only a human book. But the gospel and related truths are not hard to understand with the head. Saving truths are so plain and easy to understand that many who cannot write their names understand it. The way to be saved is plain. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3,4). "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:8-10).

It is one thing to understand what God says and another thing to believe or trust what he says. The gospel is usually rejected because it is understood intellectually. Unbelief is in the heart; not in the head. The trouble is with the affections. The natural man hates God and does not want to be saved from sin. He may want to be saved from hell--from the consequences of sin--but not from sin itself.

2. Another man says, I just don't have time to go to church and give attention to my moral condition. I have to work seven days a week. This excuse is being over-worked today. It was not often heard when I was a boy and men worked twelve-sixteen hours a day. People have time to do what they want to do. I say with all tenderness: The lives of so many of us are so cluttered with trifling things that we do not have time for God and vital things.

Illustration: "What is your business?" asked a business man when the local pastor called to see him at his office. "I just came to speak to you about your soul and its eternal interests. I just wanted to tell you about Christ as Saviour; but I see

you are busy." "Yes, I am very busy today," said the business man. The preacher put out his hand and drawing close to the man whispered solemnly in his ear: "SUPPOSE I HAD BEEN DEATH?" Everyone of us has an appointment with death and when he comes, he will not be put off.

3. Another man says, "There are too many hypocrites in the church." I agree with that. If there is one hypocrite in the church that is one too many. But what has that got to do with trusting Christ? We are not asking you to trust hypocrites; we are not even asking you to trust any man, even the best of men. We are begging you to trust Jesus Christ. He is no hypocrite. He loved wretches like us enough to come down to earth and let His own Father punish Him on the cross for our sins. "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (John 11:25,26).