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The Parables of Jesus Christ: The Three Who Requested to Come, the Many Who Rejoiced to Come

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PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

TWENTY-NINE: The Three Who Requested to Come, The Many Who Rejoiced to Come (Lk. 14:15-24)

SURVEY

This parable concerns itself with two kinds of guests who were invited to a lavish supper. Details are as follows:

- The invitation—First guest list (14:15-17)
A man prepares a great feast and sends out many invitations.
The invited (14:18)—All the guests, however, make excuses why they cannot come.
 1. First excuse (14:18)—One person has just bought a field and must inspect it.
 2. Second excuse (14:19)—One person has just bought some oxen and must try them out.
 3. Third excuse (14:20)—One person has just been married.
- The invitation—Second guest list (14:21-24)
 1. The new guests (14:21-23)—They consist of suffering and poor people everywhere, who gladly come.
 2. The old guests (14:24)—They don't even receive the smallest taste of what had been prepared for them!

SIGNIFICANCE

This parable contains what must be three of the most miserable excuses on record for not attending a banquet.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Someone has aptly described these three unresponsive individuals as two fools and a henpecked husband. Note each of their pitiful excuses:
 1. First: Only a fool would buy a field without seeing it.
 2. Second: Only a fool would purchase oxen without trying them.
 3. Third: No comment necessary.
- Note the features of this gracious invitation as recorded in Luke 14:17:

1. Its urgency — “Come!”
2. Its sufficiency — “All things”
3. Its availability — “are now ready.”

- This is but one of many such invitations issued by God to man. Note but a few:

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool . . . Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.” (Isa. 1:18; 55:1-2)

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light . . . 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.” (Mt. 11:28-30; 22:4)

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” (Rev. 22:17)