

God's Calling Requirements Part 27

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

"1 And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, 2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, 3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. 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. 5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: 6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. 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. 8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. 11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 22:1-13 KJV)

Jesus our Lord and our Master, and He is also our friend, He is speaking about the Kingdom of God in a form of parable. Jesus, here used the allegory of wedding invitation. We know that Jesus is the bridegroom and we His church is the bride and when He will come again we will meet Him in the air and we will be with Him forever. When we will meet Him in the air, then the Wedding Supper of the Lamb will take place as we can read, **"5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. 6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. 7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."** (Revelation 19:5-9 KJV) We who fear God and serve Him, is the church of Jesus, therefore for such a reason we need to prepare ourselves for such an event to be ready, cleansed, and without sin to meet the Lord. We need to fear Him and to serve Him in order to meet Him and be with Him forever when He will come.

The Lord spoke that parable and he was targeting the Pharisees who were opposing Him. The King is God the Father who sent His son the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to bring to us the salvation of God as He died on the cross for our sins; He paid the price for our sins to give us eternal life.

God invited His people by sending them His servants; once and twice He sent them, **"3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. 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." (Matthew 22:3-4 KJV) All of us are God's servants and we need to go forward and invite the people to come to Christ, to follow Him and to take Him as King over their lives, and in this way we are inviting them to the Wedding Supper of the Lamb that will take place in Heaven when Jesus come. Jesus is the only way to reach Heaven. Those whom we are inviting they will be with us and we will celebrate together, being with the Lord and forever.

All of us are God's servants and we need not to be discouraged because the people refuse to come to God and respond to His call.

When you go and preach the gospel and invite the people you should not be discouraged when the people are not paying attention or when the people they prioritize other personal things over the call of God in their lives.

We need to continue to go to whoever God is sending us to. We need to be aware of the following fact: We are going to the people in response to God's call and we should not be motivated by the peoples' response to the message we are bringing to them, but to be motivated by the reward that God had promised us, the Eternal Life, when He call us to serve Him.

The response to the invitations of the servants to the people who were invited was not good. They refused to come and everyone of them had his own excuse and reason of refusal; their personal things and plans they gave more priority than to respond to God's call: **"But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise."** (Matthews 22:5 KJV) They had put their business and affairs before God's call. People certain times they love their career, their ambitions and their plans and projects more than God's call, but they are not aware that we are inviting them to the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, when He will come it will take place in the air. Don't be among such kind of people. God is calling you today, even now, to enter into His Kingdom; therefore don't take this invitation lightly, but rather put off what is in your hand and come and join and follow the Lord with us.

Some of them were aggressive and they persecuted God's servants, **"And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them."** (Matthews 22:6 KJV) Put in your mind that you may be even ill treated or spoken bad of, but you should not give up, and you need to focus on God and to continue to serve Him. The bad treatment to God's servant is what the Israelites did with all the prophets that God had sent to help them and even with Jesus that God sent to save us. They conspired against Him and crucified Him on the cross. They conspired against the apostles and persecuted them, and they continued to persecute the Lord's followers and caused them to be scattered and kept following them to do them harm.

The Lord was angry with His people who did that, and we know that the city of Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. **"When the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city."** (Matthews 22:7 KJV) God judged the Jewish for their sins and their bad response to the message of Jesus. The Lord sent the Romans army who conquered Jerusalem, destroyed the temple and put to death all the Jewish who were in Jerusalem, the self same who persecuted Christ and His church.

The Lord will continue to deal appropriately and at the right time with those who do not respond to God's call in their lives and work to persecute us and persecute His church who gives to them the message of God. It is not our concern and it is not our responsibility to deal with those who persecute us, but God Himself will deal with in His perfect time.

The Lord also shall reward us for each and every service we did and for the pressure, the suffering and the persecutions that we received.

The mission of God does not end with ill treatment and with persecution, but continued, “8 **Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.**” (Matthews 22:8-9 KJV) Jesus after His resurrection from the dead and before His ascension to Heaven He commissioned His disciple to go and preach the gospel and to make disciples.

And even to this day, the church is commissioned and is responsible before the Lord to go forward to preach the gospel and to make disciples. We go together and we invite new people to follow Christ, as many as we found. We have the message, 'the wedding is ready', Jesus had died and rose again and the way is open now to reach God our Father through the blood of Jesus.

You may ask how about those who were invited and did not respond and who treated the Lord's servants badly? According to the Word of Jesus, He called them unworthy, “8 **Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.**” (Matthews 22:8 KJV) Therefore, this is the second warning for you today. Don't respond negatively to the message of the Lord but come, and come back, and give your life fully to the Lord and start to serve Him.

“So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.” (Matthews 22:10 KJV) We don't give up and we do not be discouraged till everyone hear the good news of Jesus. We continue to reach new people and gather them, that is why there are various church ministries and locations that purpose to reach certain new people and to bring them to the knowledge of Christ. We gather together as many as we found, both bad and good, Jesus is calling everyone both bad and good and we, Christ's servants, we do the same.

Now you need to know and to accept that when the people come and accept the invitation that does not mean that we are done. Even to those who are newly believed in Christ, they need to be taught, discipled and disciplined and it is required from them to follow Christ wholeheartedly.

The reason behind that, First, because the Lord criteria is not changed; everyone who believes Christ should finally follow Him wholeheartedly, and Second, because at the end there is judgment. If you believe in Christ then you should be a disciple to Him.

In the parable of the wedding banquet we can read that even those who responded to the invitation were scrutinized and judged, “11 **And when the king came in to see the guests, he**

saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.” (Matthews 22:11-12 KJV) That checking and time for Judgment we should anticipate and apply measures in our service and ministry that sin in the church mission and ministry needed to be addressed, scrutinized, and properly dealt with, and discipline and rules of God to be applied so when Christ will come, we are ready and we will not be judged.

That is important because final judgment is awaiting everyone, even those who responded to the invitation, for with God there is no favoritism: “Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 22:13 KJV) Heaven is real and hell is real and we need to preach about them both. With the salvation of Jesus, repentance is mandatory, and will bring us to Heaven, but living in sin will bring us to hell.

Speaking about the application of this message in the life of the church we can say the following:

1. We as church as the other churches, and we who are Christians rejoice with the salvation of Jesus, and are privileged because we accepted Christ and we are called Christians by His name. We are blessed and better than the Jewish, Muslims, Hindus, Puddist and the rest who rejected Christ and He called them unworthy, “8 **Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.**” (Matthews 22:8 KJV) Yes, we are better than others who did not believe, but that does not exempt us from being disciplined and walking according to God's Word.

2. Churches, ministries and ministers endeavor to preach the gospel and to reach new people. Resources and material things are invested and spent in reaching the lost. TV, Satellites, Crusades, Evangelism and Media, workers and ministers are all employed for this purpose to reach new people and give them the message about Jesus, “9 **Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.**” (Matthew 22:9-10 KJV)

3. Discipleship and discipline are needed beside evangelism. Churches, and we as church, in addition to evangelism, we should focus on discipleship and teaching them the ways of God and how to live in accordance to God's will, because judgment is coming sure, “11 **And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**” (Matthew 22:11-13 KJV) And we will be still judged by the Lord if our lives are still not conform to the pattern of His Word. The Lord called the one who did not wear the wedding garment, “**Friend!**” Therefore, we need to understand that even if we are friend to Jesus and in friendship with Him, that does not mean He will spare us judgment if He will find us non faithful and in sin. We cannot take advantage of our friendship with Christ. Therefore, we need to be earnest and repent soon from all our sins.

4. Church meetings should not be directed toward activities, functions and programs that are entertainment in origin and worldly in purpose. Receiving Christ and not following Him is of no credit. The Holy Spirit and the gifts of God should be used to edify the church members. Churches, ministries, workers, ministers, and we ourselves, should be aware that Jesus would deal strictly with us, with His church and with His disciples at the time of the final judgment.

5. Those who are friends of Jesus are the faithful disciples and ought to teach people the correct way of life and warn them not to sin because judgment is coming.

6. Even if people would be angry with us, and even if we cause them wounds, we still we need to teach them and correct them till they are fit into the Word of God, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." (Proverbs 27:6 KJV) The man that the king spoke with was speechless and was humiliated because the spoke to him in front of everyone, "11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless." (Matthews 22:11-12 KJV) Even if the people got embarrassed, put to shame and get humiliated, we need to continue to do so for we are truly serving them and protecting them from falling into sin and from the coming wrath of God.

7. In the passage that we read two times we read the word ready, in verse 4 and in verse 8, "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. 8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy." (Matthew 22:4, 8 KJV) all things are ready: The wedding is ready, What He mean and we ought to understand of the Word 'ready', that everything good and perfect is prepared for us and we just need to respond to the call of God and the invitation. Not that we need to labour for God, but God had prepared all good things for us. Not that we will give to God but God is giving to us. We may spend and suffer for a while but Christ will repay us back more of what we will spend.

My dear and beloved: God's Word gives us wisdom and understanding and directing us to serve God's purpose with awareness that we should not give up; continually preaching, making disciples, admonishing, correcting and warning against sin, and preparing them and preparing ourselves for the second coming of Christ.

God is calling you; therefore commit yourself to His mission and purpose and to the principles that you had learned in His Word.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I understood well your Word, and thank you for your Word that makes me understand what is going on around me. Lord I commit myself to the mission and the purpose that you are calling me to be part with. Lord gives me the strength and the boldness to continue to speak and preach your Word.

Let us confess to the Lord our sins.

Lord forgives me the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to renounce these sins and to live my life in holiness and righteous. Lord I commit my life to please you, to do your will, and to serve you according to your ways.

Lord sustains me with resources and provides all my needs to continue to live my life for you. Lord protects me from persecution and from all kinds of discouragements.

Lord refill me again with the Holy Spirit to continue to preach, making disciples, admonishing, correcting and warning them about Christ Second Coming and your coming judgment.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and who had committed their lives to serve you. Lord blesses them, provide for them and protect them from persecution and from the ill and bad treatment of the people. I come against all the work of Devil in their lives in the name of Jesus.

Lord fills them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need in their lives to serve you. Lord makes their lives good testimony to other to know you and follow you.

Lord bless us as a church, protect us and provide all our needs. Lord, increase our faith and our trust in you. Lord enable us to evangelize and to reach new people and nations, new cities and new countries with the gospel of Jesus. Lord enables us to start new Bible studies and to plant new congregation for the church. Lord take this message and spread it. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your heart be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

Note: The Bread of Life is a weekly publication from the Church of God, United Arab Emirates. For further issues and more spiritual enrichment you can visit our web site at: www.churchofgoduae.com.

Share the message with your friends.

Please share with us your view about the message and if you have any question.

If you have a prayer request, please send it to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

Please send your tithes, your first fruit, and your various offerings to the church to this account

BANK NAME:
First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)
ACCOUNT NAME:

RAMIZ BAHNAM ABBO KHALAF

ACCOUNT NO.:

1576003753162014

IBAN:

AE380351576003753162014

SWIFT CODE:

NBADAEEACPU

Or contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email:
thebread1@gmail.com.

If you need counseling in area of your life, whether about family, children or finances, please
be free to contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email:
thebread1@gmail.com.