

SAVED

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" - Romans 10:13

What a comforting message! The notion that a person can be saved just by calling upon the name of the Lord seems too good to be true. It is true. In one of His many parables, Jesus explained how this happens. He spoke of a certain king who prepared a marriage for his son and then commissioned his servants to invite the guests but *"...they would not come"* (Matt 22:3). The king made a second call sending His servants out again with the same invitation; this time some people scoffed at the invitation and went their way while others so violently resisted the invitation that they killed the servants who bid them. Each person had his own reason for not attending the wedding and for responding to the invitation in the way that he did. Despite this mass rejection of the king, the wedding was held and was filled with other willing guests.

This parable portrays five different reactions to God's call to be saved where the king is God the Father, the son is Jesus Christ and the servants are His believers on earth. The first reaction to the king's gracious invitation is one of total indifference: these people did not give a second thought to it. It was as if the words spoken by the servants never penetrated their hearts, though they heard them. Jesus characterizes this type of heart as *"the way side"* (Matt 13:4) which is so hard that God's word cannot penetrate it, so Satan can quickly snatch up the invitation like hungry birds picking up seeds thrown unto a pavement. There are many in the world today that live life gladly and unmindfully of God's call to salvation and to the eternal judgment that lies ahead. They receive the invitation, which is God's call to repentance; they just do not respond to it.

The second reaction comes from people who are deeply interested in being saved. Upon receiving an invitation, these individuals rejoice and then begin to look for ways to improve themselves; by searching for more evidence of salvation from various sources, by cleaning up their lives or by some other method that makes sense to their intellect. There seems to be distrust in these people that the invitation should come without personal requirements. This second type of person mingles well among God's servants on earth; speaking the same spiritual language, being indistinguishable from them, even making it into God's presence along with the servants at the start of the wedding. But God is not

fooled so *"...when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment"* (Matt 22:11). Even though this man had such a strong faith to believe that he had far surpassed the need to wear a robe (i.e., that he had a pure faith untainted by man) the king had him bound *"hand and foot...and cast...into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth"* (Matt 22:13). There are many today that honestly believe they are saved but they are not wearing that robe of righteousness that is placed on a penitent soul by another believer on earth. They have received the invitation; they just have not been prepared for the wedding according to the word of God.

The third and fourth reactions come from people who do not want to hear about the way of salvation. They hear the preaching of God's servants but find it impossible to give up their current life style or religious way. Whenever the call has come to them, and it has been often, *"they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise"* (Matt 22:5). Then there are those who do all in their power to prevent God's servants from preaching the gospel which conflicts with their own faith; *"the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them"* (Matthew 22:6). Again, both of these types of people have received numerous calls from God; they have just refused to listen.

The fifth reaction comes from people who willingly *"call upon the name of the Lord"* after hearing His call. Such a person, from a humble and contrite heart, repents of his sin and allows God's servants to *"...Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him..."* (Luke 15:22). As Apostle John saw in his vision, the wedding at the end of time will be filled with people who *"...came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb"* (Rev 7:14). It is the blood of Jesus, sprinkled upon a penitent soul by a member of the royal priesthood (the servants) on earth, that washes away the stain of sin for *"...without shedding of blood is no remission"* (Heb 9:22). This simple faith in Jesus is all that God requires.

The real comforting message in all this is that there is no reason for anyone to spend eternity in the lake of fire. *"...As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die...?"* (Ezekiel 33:11). God calls all people—it is up to each of us to answer.

God's Peace, Charles Korhonen

Aug 5	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
Aug 12	Chad Kuivanen	
Aug 19	Matthew Niemela	
Aug 26	Ken Storm	

Church Cleaning:
Cal and Donna Niemela

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