

“They Made Light of It” – Part 1

Matt. 22:1-14

Introduction:

- A. This parable shows the seriousness of taking the Lord lightly.
 - 1. Invited guests made light of their invitation (vv. 3-5).
 - 2. One guest came without his wedding garment (vv. 11-13).
 - 3. The king punished them all (vv. 7, 13).
- B. There are many areas where the Lord's word is taken too lightly:

Discussion:

I. People Often Take *Sin* Too Lightly (cf. Gen 19:14).

- A. Sins is a transgression of God's law (Rom. 4:15; 1 John 3:4)
- B. No sin can be taken lightly because:
 - 1. Sin deceives and hardens our hearts (Heb. 3:13).
 - 2. Sin brings on spiritual and eternal death (Jas. 1:15; Rom. 6:23)
 - 3. One sin put Simon “in the bond of iniquity.” (Acts 8:22, 23)
 - 4. Sin may be common place (Flood, Sodom)

II. People Often Take *Salvation* Too Lightly.

- A. Its cost (Heb. 5:7-9; Rom 5:6-9).
- B. Its conditions (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).

III. People Often Take *Marriage* Too Lightly.

- A. Think nothing of enjoying marital privileges outside of marriage.
 - 1. Only concern is temporal dangers: pregnancy, disease, embarrassment.
 - 2. Spiritual consequences of little consideration: Fornication, adultery (Gal. 5:19, 21)
- B. Think nothing of “trial marriages.”
- C. Think nothing of divorce for any reason (Mt. 19:3-6)
 - 1. Often results in adulterous marriages.
 - 2. Otherwise, a strong burden of temptation.

IV. People Often Take the *Church* Too Lightly.

- A. It is the result of God's eternal purpose (Eph. 3:10, 11)
- B. It is purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28).
 - 1. Each member redeemed by blood of Christ
 - 2. Each member added as he is saved (Acts 2:47).

V. People Often Take *Church Attendance* Too Lightly.

- A. Do not grasp the purpose of assembling (cf. Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:24, 25)
- B. Do not grasp the implications of wilful absence (Heb. 10:26-29).
 - 1. What it says to the Lord – “I have no need of you” (cf. Matt. 18:20).
 - 2. What it says to others:
 - a. Brethren – “I have no need of you.”
 - b. Visitors – “I don't bother, why should you.”
 - c. Preacher/elders/teachers – “Why not quit, your efforts are not appreciated.”
 - d. Treasurer – “Meeting the budget is your problem.”
 - e. Faithful – “You may as well stay home next time” (cf. brother C.R. Nichol).

Conclusion:

- A. How seriously or lightly do you take these things?
- B. Do not take the Lord's invitation to come unto Him lightly?