#### FACING A CHURCH AND A LOST WORLD FULL OF EXCUSES PT #2

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### Luke 14:18-20

**18** 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.

19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

**20** And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

### **62-0121E - The Marriage Of The Lamb**

53 And, that, we know that there is going to be a Bride, and there's going to be a wedding supper served in the skies. That's just as sure to be, as God is, because it's His Word. And we know that those that are going to make up that Bride is going to be His Church, and they're going to appear before Him without spot or wrinkle. And they have the material on earth now to make themselves ready.

# 62-0121E - The Marriage Of The Lamb

<u>145</u> He's going to have a Bride that hasn't got a wrinkle in Her. Amen. She's wholly washed by the Blood of His own self. That's right. So we see where we stand, the wedding getting ready to come.

## 59-0415A - God's Provided Way

24 Now, when the invitations was given out, the excuses was made. Then back they come and said, "They won't come." Now, if you notice, the last time that He sent them out, was to go into the hedges, and highways, and byways, get the lame, halt, and blind, and compel them to come in. For God is determined that His table will not be set, and there'll be nobody there. God wants His tables full. The fatlings has been killed. Everything's been fixed and everything's ready. And if you'll notice, the last great message that was to go, was to go into the highways and byways. Now, I like that about this little church here, feeding the poor, taking in the lame, the halt, the withered, praying for the sick and... I reading this little sign here, what give me the idea. "And the lame shall walk," it said. Certainly. The last calling and

the last invitation was a great time to sweep across the country in Divine healing. That was the last. And we're winding up the end of that, jus pulling in the loose ends right now. So how close is the coming of the Lord? Go into the hedges and byways. Bring them in, compel them to come. Bring in the lame, the halt, the blind. They had the healing service.

# 56-1004 - A Wedding Supper

27 Now, as soon as the invitations was give out, then the excuses was made. Oh, yes, one married a wife, and the other one bought some oxen. You know the story. That's the way it is today. God made the supper ready, sent the preacher to preach the faith. What happened? "Oh, I can't go because I'm a deacon in another church. I just couldn't do that." "Well, I couldn't go because it would lower my prestige." Your prestige... Then "Oh, I couldn't go because I don't believe them old holyrollers that's acting like that. I'll just... I—I'm going to live my life." The excuses was made. "Oh, it's too straight. I wouldn't want to do that." Excuse and say, "Well, I'm so tired

when I come in at night. I can't go to church." That's excuses today. "Oh, I'm afraid that husband wouldn't like it." "I'm afraid my wife would kick me out of the house." She ought to if that's the kind of man you are. That's right. But there you are: excuses made. Many of them we could name: excuses.

# 56-1004 - A Wedding Supper

When the king made his supper... Now, you know what? The bridegroom, after the invitations was given, and all the lame, the halt, and the blind would come up, or ever who was called and had an invitation came, now, it was customary that... How could they come in if they were poor and all different ways of dressing, and how could they ever look right? One setting with a fine suit on, the other setting with a pair of overalls, it wouldn't look right. So He said...

Now, when the invitation was given, the bridegroom had to furnish the robe. That's the oriental custom. The bridegroom had to go and buy a robe for everyone that was invited, so that when the person come up... And they only had one way (Glory. Thanks be to God for that.), no nine hundred and sixty different ways, but one way. Jesus said, "I am that Way."

30 And the king's son, the bridegroom, stood at the door to receive the invitations. And each one that come with an invitation, the bridegroom received the invitation. The father had give the invitation, he came and handed it to the bridegroom. The bridegroom, in a return, put a robe on everyone that come in as identification (Oh, my.), put a robe on everyone that's good or bad, rich or poor; all looked alike.

Amen.

Now, this robe is none other than the baptism of the Holy Ghost. That's the robe.

## 59-1217 - What Was The Holy Ghost Given For?

**104** Some of you people walking along, saying, "Well, I just can't quit drinking. I just can't quit this."

The Holy Ghost comes to live in you, to make all these "can'ts" get away from you. That's right. Make women stop cutting their hair, make them quit wearing shorts and slacks. No excuses. Make them quit tattling. Oh, yes, that's what It's for, to make you a holy life. It'll follow the instructions of the Bible every time.

**105** A woman say, "It's just too hot; I just have to wear these. Gives me a headache if I let my hair grow."

But there's no excuses with the Holy Ghost. It's there to make it so. It'll follow the Word just exactly. That's what the Holy Ghost is to do. It's to make you man turn your head from them half-naked women, and quit lusting after them, and a church members. That's what It's to do.

106 It's to quit making you smoke and drink, and be...want to be a bigshot. It'll take that out of you. It'll humble you when you do that. That's what the Holy Ghost is for. It's for a holy life. That's right. Make you quit gossiping. Make you quit playing cards, shooting craps, and all these other things that you do around the corner.

It'll make you quit your carrying on the way you're doing, living untrue to your wife. That's what It'll do. That's right. It'll quit making you want to marry somebody else's wife. That's exactly right.

That's what It is. It's to make you live a holy life. That's what the Holy Ghost is Power for, "to set your affections on things Above," where God stands at the...?...the mind of Christ in you. You can't help from seeing those things; when you look at them, you turn your head. That's right. It's to make you.

107 You say, "I can't do it. Oh, I just can't do it." Sure, you can't. But the Holy Spirit come for that purpose. That's what It did. It come to take it out of you, all of them old habits and things that you're doing.

#### 56-0218E - The Worst Sinner In The City

Jesus wants to bless you. He wants to—He wants the first place, and we give Him the last place. Oh, yes. We got time for everything else, but you see Him just a few minutes before you jump in bed, maybe, at night, once a week. See?

#### 57-0326 - Jehovah-Jireh

Brother if you ever amount to anything, you've got to love God better than your wife, your husband, your children, your pastor, yeah, everything that there is; you've got to love God first. God gets first place. We give Him about tenth place. But He deserves the best we got and the first we got, and all we got.

#### 54-0304 - Elijah And Elisha

I tell you, that rock still lays here tonight too. That's right. Just start digging and see if the trenches don't fill up. Get all of the world out of the way. Get them old picture shows and hoe-downs and things you been tending to, all those other things, throw it out. Let the waters come in. Give God first place. Amen. Get those things straightened out. Then the waters can come down, from the way of Edom. That's right.

## 55-0828A - The Unwelcomed Christ

Give Jesus first place: first place, first in life. First your best; not—not your second, your first. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; other things will be added."

## 55-1110 - A Hidden Life In Christ

23 And many times we substitute so much instead of the Word, especially today. We're substituting phenomenal. We're substituting a lot of other things that shouldn't be. After all, church is for preaching the Word. Testimonies are fine, and different things that we do is wonderful, but we must give the Word first place because It's for the sinner, and for the people that has the Holy Spirit also.

#### 57-0310A - Washing Jesus' Feet

And some of you people that don't go to church, shame on you. Go to church about once a year and that's on Easter to show your pretty hat... That's right. But you know what? You... God deserves the first place. Jesus ought to have the first place in every life. But we give Him about the fourth place. He deserves the first place. Well, you say, "I pray once a day." That's all right. He receives it. If you want to give Him fourth place, that's all right, He will take it. You only went to church once this year, maybe, and wore the new hat and everything, but He never condemned you for it. That's what makes Him God to me. If you want to give Him fourth place or fifth place, He will take it. He will take anything you give Him, but He ought to have the first place. He ought to have the best we can give. He ought to have our first, our best, our all. He's deserving of it.