

CSI: Controversial Subject Investigated:

Called and Chosen

The Setting: A Wedding Feast
The Evidence: Matthew 22:1-14; see also Luke 14:15-24 (KJV)
The Characters: Jesus and Listeners
The Controversy: What is the difference between being “called” and being “chosen”?

In Matthew 22, the kingdom of Heaven is likened to a marriage. In context, a certain king had prepared a marriage for his son—a royal event, and invitations had been issued. After the first ones (likened to Israel) who received an invitation rejected it, another invitation was sent:

Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. 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)

*Sinners Jesus will receive
Sound this Word of grace to all
Who the heavenly pathway leave
All who linger all who fall*



*Sing it o'er and o'er again
Christ receiveth sinful men
Make the message clear and plain
Christ receiveth sinful men*

In Luke 14, Jesus had just warned the religious leaders—and anyone else listening—the danger of rejecting Him, and He warned them about making the gospel exclusive to a few. *All who hear* the message of salvation are “called”—*invited* to become believers.

However, they all began to make excuse. One excuse is as good as another if you don't intend to do whatever is asked (like a man who said he couldn't come to church because... he didn't have any milk in the refrigerator). **“Excuses are curses, and when you have no excuses left, there will be hope for you.” (Spurgeon)** Their excuses spoke of their motive: they didn't want to come.

—SIDE BAR—

Those bidden who refused to come shows that there was no logical reasoning. They “all with one consent” is indicative of camaraderie. “Show me your friends, and I'll show you your future.” (Trieber)

The ones who rejected the invitation had been bidden but were deemed “not worthy” only after their refusal.

Don't miss the deeper meaning of the Gospel coming to the Gentiles because the Jews rejected the Messiah. *None of this took God by surprise.*

An analogy: A groom issues an invitation and “chooses” his bride. She, in turn, has to “choose” him. So it is with Jesus and His bride.

*So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things.
Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant,
**Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.
Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.
For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden
shall taste of my supper (Luke 14:21-24)***

God has already made all things ready; and on the prophetic calendar, it's supper time. The invitation has been given, and it's time to make a decision. “Come, for all things are *now* ready.” Everything needed for salvation has been done. God sent His Son, and when Jesus died on the cross for sinful man, He cried, “It is finished” (John 19:30).

The invitation is urgent. **Compel them.** They must lovingly be *convinced* that they are invited to this great banquet. **Those who are “chosen” are those who hear the message and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.** Many, many, many are called who do not answer the call, but all who answer are “chosen,” and they become children of God.