

"UNLIMITED ROOM, BUT LIMITED TIME"

Luke 14:16-22; Matt. 24:42-44; 25:11-13 (See Page 6)

INTRODUCTION: For our text we have taken portions of two parables: "*The Ten Virgins*" and "*The Great Supper*", and ***coupled them*** with Christ's warn-ing to "*Watch Therefore*" and "*Be ye therefore ready,*" in *Matt. Chap. 24*.

A. These parables teach two important truths concerning the Kingdom of Heaven: (1) "*Unlimited Room*" (*Great Supper*); (2) "*Limited Time*" (*Ten Virgins*) and as mentioned Christ's Warnings to be Ready in Matt. 24:42-44; 25:11-13.

1. **Give Message Title:** "**UNLIMITED ROOM, BUT LIMITED TIME**"

I. WHILE THERE IS UNLIMITED ROOM IN THE KINGDOM: ***There is limited time to prepare for God's eternal kingdom.***

A. Many will realize one day that they *have waited too long personally to be ¹ saved or to ² go in the Rapture!* (**Rapture is about when, how, and why we go to Heaven at that time, not if we go!**)

1. **Many others** will one day realize that neither they, nor their loved ones will make the Rapture OR even go to Heaven?

2. **Many will realize** that they have wasted every opportunity to be saved?

3. **Many will realize** that they have *let revivals come and go and didn't invite their loved ones to attend.*

a. They will have even failed to fast and pray for their salvation.

B. ***How would you feel if the Message were to be: "No others can be saved: "None?" None! (Including those who think they know enough about the com-ing Tribulation not to take the Mark of the Beast, if they miss the Rapture.)***

1. Scriptures warns off a cut of date, ***not because there is no more room*** BUT ***because time has run out.***

Rev. 13:8 "*And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him (antichrist), whose names are not written [presently, not "were not" but at the time referred to] in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."*

2. **"All" = without exception!** Including those who think they know enough not to take the Mark of the Beast. (Biblical illiteracy concerning prophecy).

2 Thess. 2:9-12 "*Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, {10} And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. {11} And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: {12} That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."*

3. **In that day, the Message will be for those taking the Mark of the Beast, or worshipping his image:** ***"No others can be saved ... no matter their prayers, sighs, or tears, they cannot be saved."***

C. One day, the Message **will also be,** "*The Ministry of The Spirit has ended.*"?

1. Genesis 6:3 warns that God's Spirit will not always strive with man [or an individual.]

Gen 6:3 "And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."

a. One day He (Spirit) will cease to deal with man as a whole WHY? **The Restrainer will be removed.**

2 Thes. 2:7 "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth (restrains) will let (restrain), until he be **taken out** of the way."

1. Two schools of thought as to who the Restrainer is: (#1) Holy Ghost), (#2) **Church**. **Important question is not who He is BUT what happens afterwards:**

2. **Has he stopped striving with you?** If not, you need to do something about responding to Him today. **Door to Gentiles is rapidly closing!** (Luke 21:24).

3. **We need to do all we can to get our loved ones in and as many others as we can, AND as soon as we can!!**

a. We sit around as if to say, "Oh, they'll make it; OR they have plenty of time."

>>>BUT TIME IS RUNNING OUT!!<<<

4. **Although there is unlimited room there is limited time!**

5. **God repeatedly warns in His word about it being "too late." I Repeat: [REPEAT IT TWICE]**

II. QUESTION ARISES: WHY IS THE TIME LIMITED WHEN THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM??

A. Because, **if we had unlimited time we would never make a move toward God and salvation. "Any time means no set time!"**

B. **God is just** to limit the time!! Why? **Because this life is sufficient in which to REPENT and prepare to go to Heaven; and to work and lay up treasures, so as to receive a full reward after we have been judged according to our works.**

2 John 1:8 "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

C. **God is just to limit the time because we are accustomed to limited time in everything else in life.** (April 15th, Dec. 20th = taxes due), Birthday = Drivers license renewed, Reminders in the mail = Payments due.

1. **I am here to remind [warn] someone in this service that time is about to run out for you, or your loved ones!!**

III. CONSIDER WHY THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF ROOM.

Matt. 22:2-5 "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 [prior knowledge] to the

wedding: and they would not come [refused to come]. 4 Again*, he sent forth other servants, [How many times have you heard the invitation or message?] 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:" PLENTY OF ROOM BECAUSE:

A. Too little emphasis or importance is placed on preparations for the wedding and marriage supper (Rapture!).

1. How important is it to you? How much emphasis have you placed on it lately? Many are prepared but not ready! Being ready is about a mindset.

B. Plenty of room because today, at the time of the Rapture - when everything is ready:

1. Many are taking lightly God's call and go about their own business, pre-occupied with this life with their lust for things. PLENTY OF ROOM BECAUSE:

2. Many are waiting but not watching!!

Illustrate difference in watching and waiting. (Expecting friends) // Have you been watching or waiting??

C. Unlimited Room because of EXCUSES: THE ONES USED AT THE TIME OF THE PARABLE (Luke 14) ARE THE SAME USED TODAY. (Human nature hasn't changed!!)

Luke 14:18 "And they all with one consent (agreement, supportive) began to make excuse (little leaven - leaven of Pharisees). 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."

1. Where would this and all churches be if no one every made an excuse? What kind of results would we see in the services and in revivals? In your eternal reward?

2. What kind of rewards could you or I have if we had not made excuses?

3. 1st man's attitude (businessman) = "I have something else to see."

a. His emphasis was on material things and pleasure.

b. Imagine the foolishness of buying land without seeing it.

Luke 14:19 "And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused." (Workman)

2. 2nd man's attitude = "I have something else to do." (As important, or more important.) (Jobs, chores, things - interfering by choice.)

a. Imagine the foolishness of buying oxen without seeing them and NOT knowing whether they will work together, or if they're healthy.

b. Imagine the foolishness of letting work of any kind keep you from the Rapture and the marriage supper!!

3. Next, we have the Family man. No excuse, but backed up the others in their excuse making.

Luke 14:20 "And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come."

a. 3rd man's attitude = "I have something else to enjoy" (Using family as an

acceptable excuse [reason].)

4. **We would do well to remember God can remove out of the way all those things, (and people) that we us as an excuse.**

IV. CLOSE WITH THE SERVANTS INVITATION: "Come; for all things are now ready!" WE MUST WATCH TO BE READY! (See Matt. 24:42-44)

A. How will you answer God for not accepting His invitation, if you're not saved in the end?

1. What is your excuse for not being saved? **Who or what are you blaming?**

a. Who will you blame after the Rapture, for not being ready?

2. What will be your excuse when you stand before God for your lack of involvement in the kingdom of God?

a. Eternity will reveal all - **"every man's work shall be manifest."**

3. **How will you answer those who ask** you why you did not make the marriage supper (rapture)?

B. All things pertaining to your salvation is now ready.

1. You must experience forgiveness and cleansing to go to **Heaven**.

a. **You can have it through repentance and faith in the name of Jesus.**

St. John 6:37 "He that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out."

1 John 1:9"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

2. **Do you need or desire peace?**

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

3. **If you need rest from you load of sin and guilt** Jesus promises to give it unto you.

Matt. 11:28-29"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

5. **Are you afraid you don't have the power [strength] to live for Jesus?**

Luke 10:19 "Behold, I give unto you power to **tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**"

B. God is speaking to you! Time is running out and you're without an acceptable excuse!

1. There is unlimited room in Heaven, **BUT** your time is limited for you to get ready to go there!

2. Time is running out church to get our loved ones saved. **That's what this message [service] is all about!!**

3. How many of your loved one do you expect to take with you to Heaven?

4. What are you willing to do to help them to be ready?? **How badly do you want to**

see them saved? It is time to come and pray and seek God!

D. Will your house (family) be broken up because you failed to **fast and pray; watch; witness to, and warn them?**

Will your Pastor hear you say what one Pastor heard at the deathbed of one of his church members who said, "I'm not afraid to die...**but I am ashamed to die...** God left me here on earth to reach others...***I take no one with me!***"

1. The altars are open for all those who feel the need to come and pray for yourself, and for those who realize the need to seek God for the salvation of your lost loved ones. ***Tomorrow may be too late; this may be your last opportunity. Come now! The day is far spent and the night soon cometh when no man can work.***

Luke 21:34-36 *"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch ye therefore, and **pray always**, that (so that) ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*

Luke 12:40 *"Be ye therefore **ready** also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."* **Not only prepared, but also of a ready mindset.**

++Scripture Text For Sermon++

Luke 14:16-17 "Then said he unto him, A certain man made (prepared) a **great supper**, and bade many: **17** And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for **all things are now ready.**" (**SAY IT WITH ME!**)

Luke 14:18-20 "And they all with one consent (accord) 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.**" (He made no excuse. He didn't feel he needed to.)

Luke 14:21 "So that servant came, and showed (told) his lord these things. Then the master of the house (said, "**I understand, that's alright**") **being angry** (because of their excuse making and refusal) **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." (**Whosoever will!**) **22** And the servant said, Lord, **it is done** as thou hast commanded (**can we as His servants say the same?**) and **yet there is room.**" (SAY IT WITH ME!) = **UNLIMITED ROOM.**

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Matt. 25:11-13 "Afterward came also the other (foolish - unprepared) virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. **12** But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. **13** **Watch therefore (be prepared), for ye know neither (not) the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.**

Be ready for when He comes (and come He will) = **LIMITED TIME**

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Matt. 24:42-44 "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. **43** But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. **44** Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not **the Son of man cometh.**"

WE MUST WATCH TO BE READY!!

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PAGE * MERGEFORMAT 2

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PAGE * MERGEFORMAT 1

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02