

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES

Ronny F. Wade, Speaker

They Made Light Of It

Matthew 22:1-5

This is a third in a series of three parables directly addressed to the Pharisees. The king represents God. The king's son is Jesus Christ the Son of God. The marriage supper stands for the privileges of the true faith. The messengers are those sent to invite people into His kingdom. The mistreatment of the messengers refers to the hostility of the Pharisees against the apostles, first, and to others later. The rejection of the invitation is the rejection of Christ's message by the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders.

Verse 5 represents the crowning insult, not merely rejecting it, but belittling it and making light of it. They treated it with contempt. It is one thing to reject something or someone, and quite another to belittle, make fun of, or light of it. It is obvious that their sense of values were wrong. The opportunity to enter the Kingdom meant little to them, the everyday affairs of life being more important. While there are some things that can be so taken, there are obviously others that cannot. These are the things that concern our study at this time.

I. Never Treat Yourself As Unimportant.

We are made in the image of God. Gen. 1:26 "Let us make man in our own image..." Psalms 8:5-6 "For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet."

There is a tendency to downgrade man today. Everything from television commercials to some messages coming from religious pulpits places man on the level of the beast. Tantalized by sensual pleasure men are led to the basest and most despicable of acts. People today are more concerned about their bodies, their pleasure, education, earning power, social status, etc than they are their souls. We are a spirit being. In this way we are made in God's image.

Mt. 16:26 "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and loses his own soul, or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Mt. 10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." The spirit lives on after its separation from the body. From this point forward there will never be a time when you won't be alive.

The spirit of man must be fed and cared for. To neglect it is to treat yourself with contempt. If you refused to eat or drink, you would eventually die physically.

The same is true spiritually.

Psalms 42:1-2 "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." The spirit of man cannot be fed on those things put in barns Luke 12:13-21

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The soul is purified by obedience 1Peter 1:21 "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart." Our soul is the most priceless possession we have. Mt. 16:26 If we love it, we lose it all. If we fail to put God first in our lives, we are making light of ourselves.

II. Don't Consider Lightly Your Influence.

1Tim. 4:12 "Let no man despise (look down on) your youth but be an example of the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit in faith in purity." Influence should be guarded as a precious jewel. Its power is far greater than we realize. (people are looking and watching you.)

Influence has changed nations, created wars, solved major problems, and both blessed and cursed humanity. To guide one in the right direction is wonderful. To become a stumbling block is tragic. Mt. 18:6 "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea." No one lives to himself, we all touch the lives of other people. (If we influence anyone, it is usually those we love most and who most love us)" For this reason alone, we cannot take our influence lightly.

1. Your influence in the home.

Wives—1Peter 3:1-4 "Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your adornment be merely outward, arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel, rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God."

Husbands—Eph. 6:1-3 "...fathers provoke not your children to wrath but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

1Timothy 1:5 "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice, and I am persuaded in thee also."

We influence our children to attend church, obey the gospel, live a morally pure life etc. Don't treat it lightly.

2. Your influence in the Church.

For peace or strife, which one is it?

For work or inactivity- Romans 12:11 "not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

3. Your influence in the community.

Does your life count for Jesus? Do you pay your bills, live a moral life, do you have a good reputation for telling the truth? You influence people in these and other ways.

Our influence lives on even after death, Heb. 11:4 "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice and by it he being dead yet speaks."

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day,
I'd rather one should walk with me, than merely show the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,
Fine council is confusing, but example is always clear.
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds
For to see the good in action is what everybody needs.
I can soon learn how to do it, if you will let me see it done
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
For I may misunderstand you and the fine advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

Edgar Guest

III. Don't Make Light Of Your Responsibility.

We are all responsible for making decisions in life. Some are very difficult and we tend to withdraw from them.

Pilate, tried to avoid one by saying "what shall I do with Jesus?..."

In other words "you make the decision for me." Then washed his hands in a mock ceremony, as though that relieved him of all responsibility.

We cannot treat lightly our responsibility in:

1. glorifying God—Mt.5:16 "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father..."
2. winning souls—Matthew 28:18-20
3. church attendance—Heb.10:25 and Acts 20:5
4. maintaining the unity of the Spirit Eph. 4:3

IV. We Must Not Consider The Word of God Lightly.

1. It is able to save our souls James 1:21 "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."
2. We will be judged by it John 12:48 "the words that I speak unto you, the same shall judge you in the last day." We can't take that lightly. (It is serious business when we dismiss the word of God as insignificant.)
3. Those who change it are cursed by God. Gal. 1:6-7 "I marvel that you are so soon removed (are turning away) from him that called you into the grace of Christ..." (It is a serious matter when we leave the scriptures.)

We cannot treat the word of God lightly.

V. We Must Never Treat Christ and His Precious Invitation Lightly.

1. He is the divine Son of God John 20:30-31 "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciple, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

2. He is the savior of the world. Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Jesus died for us that we might live.

3. He is coming again John 14:1-3

4. He will be our judge Acts 17:31

5. He invites all to salvation Mt. 11:28 We cannot treat that invitation lightly.

6. He is able to save us Heb. 7:25 "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him..."

7. He stands at the door and knocks Rev. 3:20 "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with me."

Will you open the door and let him into your heart?

Only you can make that decision.