

The Invitation Trumpets 2017

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 9/21/2017

Offertory

Leviticus 23:23-24 The Lord spoke unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a Sabbath, a **memorial of blowing of trumpets**, an holy convocation.

Today, the **Feast of Trumpets**, pictures the Day that Jesus will return to this earth in great power to rule as **King of kings** and **Lord of lords**.

Leviticus 23:25 Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall **offer an offering** made by fire unto the LORD.

The Bible does not say much about the Feast of Trumpets **here** – but amazingly, I believe the Bible has more to say about the Feast of Trumpets than any of the other Holy Days. It is pivotal in the Plan of God.

The Feast of Trumpets is a day of gladness and great rejoicing, but it also has a contrasting note of solemnity to it. That is because of the **earthshaking** events that will occur just before Christ's return.

We must always ask ourselves this question, “Who is Jesus returning **to** – and to whom is He coming **against**?”

I want to tie today – the Feast of Trumpets, to the Feast of Tabernacles.

If there is one Feast of the Lord – besides the weekly Sabbath Day – that **defines** the Church of God and sets us apart from the world – it is the **Feast of Tabernacles** – and the way we go up to the Feast every year.

The Feast of Tabernacles is the set aside time to go up and worship God – blessing His holy name – honoring His Holy Name in glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving that we might be the Children of God forever and ever.

Revelation 7:12 ... Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever.

Leviticus 23:39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, **ye shall keep a Feast unto the Lord seven days**:

It is **only** the Faithful brethren today who are privileged to **keep a Feast unto the Lord for seven days**. But in the world tomorrow – **everyone** alive will **worship** Jesus Christ at the **Feast of Tabernacles** – as they should. Notice Jesus own prophecy to Zechariah.

Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass, that **everyone** that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and **to keep the Feast of tabernacles**.

We are going to look at God the Father's **invitation** to us.

Matthew 22:1 And Jesus answered and spoke unto them again by parables, and said,

Matthew 22:2 The Kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

This is a picture of **God the Father**, and the wedding supper of **Jesus Christ**.

Matthew 22:3 And the King sent forth His servants to call them that were **invited** to the wedding: **but, they would not come.**

They had **excuses** to do something else.

We have been **called** by God – **out** of this world – to follow Him where He leads us.

It is so important – God sends out **another set of invitations!**

Maybe they do not realize what **great lengths** I've gone to in preparation for this wedding to my Son?

Matthew 22:4 Again, He sent forth **other** servants, saying, Tell them which are **invited**, Behold, I have **prepared** my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and everything is ready: **come** unto the marriage.

God has **prepared spiritual food** that is **vital** to our spiritual health. We do not want to miss out on that spiritual meal.

Back in the days of the Worldwide Church of God it was the practice in some areas that the deacons would go into a back room to sort and count the Holy Day offering while the sermon was being given.

As a result of that practice, the deacons missed every Holy Day Sermon – the spiritual meal that God had prepared for them. Every Feast Day they were busy with business – **while** the Sermon was being given. It was thought by them that what they were doing – counting the collection – was so important – it **excused them** from hearing the spiritual meaning of the Day.

The tragic result was that every single deacon in that congregation **fell away** when Joe Tkach said that the Holy Days were not important.

Matthew 22:4 cont ... Behold, I have **prepared** my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and everything is ready: **come** unto the marriage.

The key word here is "**prepared.**" God has said, "I have **prepared** my dinner unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. Just think of how much preparation has gone into the Plan of God from the Creation of the earth – and before. What has He prepared for us to hear at the Holy Days what will change our lives in preparation for the Wedding Supper.

The Feast of Trumpets is an **invitation** to the wedding Supper. This is another of Jesus Old Testament prophecies:

Nehemiah 4:20 In what place therefore ye hear the **sound of the trumpet, rush** to wherever it is sounding and **join us there:** our God shall fight for us.

God will take care of any distractions that could prevent your obedience, and make a way out of your dilemma, that ye may be able to bear it.

1Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also **make a way to escape**, that ye may be able to bear it.

How could anyone deny God the Father's invitation?

Matthew 22:5 But they made **light** of God's invitation, and went their ways, one to his **farm**, another to his **merchandise**:

Where Matthew lists only **two** categories of excuses, **farm**, and **merchandise** – Luke lists more of the examples that Jesus gave of **excuses** for not doing what God requires.

Luke 14:18 And they **all** with one consent began to **make excuses**. [The Greek for excuses says that they **refused and rejected** God's invitation.

Luke 14:18 cont. The first said unto him, I have bought a **piece of ground**, and I must needs go and see it: [*I've got work to do*] I beg of you, please **have me excused**.

Luke 14:19 And another said, I have bought **five yoke of oxen**, and I go to **train** them: I pray thee have **me excused**.

Then Jesus inserts a bit of irony in the parable.

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

In other words – he is rejecting the Bride of Christ – for a **lesser** bride.

Brethren, do you see the tragic **irony** in Jesus' last example of **excuses to refuse** the **Father's invitation**. Who in his right mind would chose to marry a carnal wife over being the spiritual bride in the **marriage of the Lamb**?

In our minds, the **irony** should extend to **every other excuse** – oxen, fields, merchandise, farm and occupation. They all knew in advance that the Feast was coming up soon. They created their own set of circumstances that they planned to attend to – rather than be obedient to God.

So, Jesus provides a list of a wider variety of **excuses** for **denying** what God asks – and every one of the excuses is hopelessly foolish when compared to God's **invitation**. What is God the Father's **reaction** to His invitation being rejected? Answer, God become angry.

Luke 14:21 So that servant came, and told his Lord these **excuses**. 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 here the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

God could just as well have been thinking, "The gall, the audacity, the impudence of my subjects – to think that what they have going on is more **significant** than what I have created them for."

Why does God become **so angry** when presented with **valid** excuses? Each potential wedding guest thought that he was presenting a **good reason** for turning down God's invitation – never considering for a moment that there are **no valid excuses** for refusing God's invitation. The intent of this parable is that if we do not respond to what God **tells us to do** – the invitation will not be available indefinitely. The invitation is a one-time offer.

The recipients of **invitations** did not take into consideration the incredible **preparations** God had gone through from the Creation of the world – to the gift of His Son, in making the wedding supper possible.

Luke 14:22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is still room.

Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways, byways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

If we do not avail ourselves of God's **invitation** post haste – it is rescinded for good by God. God's Plan is sure – if someone does not **desire it enough** to act on it, someone else will be chosen **to take their crown** in every case where an **excuse** is given and God's invitation is rejected.

Revelation 3:11 Hold firmly that which you have, so that no one **takes your crown**

*Luke 14:24 For I say unto you, That **none** of those who were **invited** shall taste of my supper.

Matthew And the remnant took the King's servants [Prophets and teachers who were extending the wedding invitations], and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

And here is where the picture of the **Feast of Trumpets** is found in this parable of "**The Invitation.**" Remember, **Trumpets** is the time of the nations, that they should be judged.

Matthew 22:7 But when the king heard thereof, he was **angry**: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Both, those who **refused** His invitation, and those who **prevented** His invitations from going out – all destroyed in the **fierce anger** of the Lord.

The Feast of Trumpets has to do with **God's Wrath** being poured out on all nations and **institutions**.

Matthew 22:8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were invited **were not worthy**.

Matthew 22:9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

Matthew 22:10 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 22:11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

Matthew 22:12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how did you come in here not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

He had no answers – because **there are no answers** for not doing what God has commanded us.

Matthew 22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

How important is it to accept God's **invitation**? A certain man asked Jesus, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? Jesus answered him saying, you go and **sell everything** you have, and come, follow me. (Luke 18:18, 22) That is how important God's invitation is – more important than everything else!

Nothing is more important than God's **invitation**. Jesus knew that **at the end** – the love of **many** would **wax cold** and that **faith** would fail. (Matthew 24:12, Luke 18:8)

We are very blessed to know of God's Holy Days – and to have the opportunity and freedom to observe them and receive the blessings of God for doing so. Today is both a **solemn** Holy day, and the beginning of the seventh month.

Numbers 10:10 Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall **blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings**, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.

We will now blow the *shophar* (over the offering) and take up the offering.

Special Music: "Just one Voice,"
by Rick Peterson, Ambassador Chorale

End: The Invitation