

Transform Magazine

August 2019
Volume 2 Issue 8



“The Invitation”

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

The Inner Place

Dr. Claude A. Dangerfield II

*There is a place beyond life's challenges
An inner place of peace, love, and joy.*

A place where you can find solitude and strength.

*The great thing is each individual possess a personal key to provide access.
Once inside one gains restoration, transformation strength, and a sound
mind,*

*with a greater understanding and impactful wisdom that will elevate
and put you on the path to your destiny of true intent of who you were
created to be.*

*In the inner place, you will learn to trust one completely and will be shown
how to love others correctly, as you yourself are experiencing love from the
one that matters.*

*When in the inner place you will also learn how to communicate effectively
and erase all guilt and shame.*

*In the inner place, you will come to the understanding of true intimacy
and what it feels like as well as what it will now mean to you.*

*The greatest understanding is that it will always as it has been, be
accessible to you.*

When you use your key and enter into the inner place.

*It is not a place of fear, it is a place of love, wrapped in peace, joy, and
understanding and each experience will provide you with greater wisdom
and tranquility.*

*Experience your inner place the world will become a different place for you.
Because your inner will radiate to your outer place.*

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The Invitation

Are you coming...and if so, will you be ready?

By Eunice A. Christian
August 10, 2019

Matthew 22:1-14 New King James Version*: ¹ And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said:

² The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, ³ and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. ⁴ Again, he sent out other servants, saying, '*Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.'*' ⁵ But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. ⁶ And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. ⁷ But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

⁸ Then he said to his servants, *The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.* ⁹ *Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.* ¹⁰ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹ But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. ¹² So he said to him, *Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?* And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the servants, *Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

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FOREWORD

This month's theme is *The Invitation*. An invitation is when someone is invited, requested, or called to attend a meeting, a function, an event. Receiving an invite usually signifies that it is a pleasant or meaningful gathering that entails a good outcome; usually a celebratory affair (a wedding, christening, anniversary), or an event that produces good results (entertainment, a revival, financial wealth).

The holy scriptures, Matthew 22:1-4, as expressed above, is a parable presented by The Lord of a scenario about a king whose son is about to wed. *The king had everything prepared, including food, for the union of his son to his fiancée, but none of his invited guests were in attendance.* The king then instructed his servants to

go to those invited guests to share his wishes; that the wedding ceremony is ready to commence. The king told his servants to tell his invited guests that there was plenty of food prepared—and now he desires their presence. When the king's invited guests ignored his request, and worse, some of his invited guests killed some of his servants, the king then instructs his army to kill those responsible and destroy their city.

Luke 13:34-35: ³⁴O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁵See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*

Friend, Your Wedding Clothes

The king, being disheartened by the rejection of those he initially invited, then instructed his servants to invite those on the outskirts to attend his son's wedding. *The king wanted witnesses to his son's union with his bride-to-be.* According to the parable, the servants did as they were instructed; the hall where the wedding was to be held was successfully filled with invitees; however, there was one issue: one of the invitees showed up unprepared. When the king noticed this unprepared guest, he approached him. The king addressed him as *friend*, and then asked him why was he unprepared. The man was speechless; this in turn, angered the king, and the king took action against him guest; having instructed his servants to tie him up and throw him out into utter darkness where there will be crying and grinding of teeth. *When this parable is broken down, line by line, it is truly enlightening!*

Think about this:

- *Have you ever been invited to an important affair, showed up, but angered the individual(s) who invited you due to an offense on your part? Did you explain the cause or have a good reason for the offense?*
- *On the alternative, have you ever invited someone to an important event, but when that individual showed up, you were furious or angry because of how they presented him- or herself? Furthermore, did the individual explain the cause or the reason for the offense? Was he or she apologetic, or simply did not address the issue, or have an excuse, as depicted in the case of the parable indicated above?*

If you cannot relate to this scenario, perhaps you can to this:

- *Have you ever received an invitation from someone in your inner circle, and did not respond...not because you couldn't, but because you just did not care?*
- *Have you ever seen someone show up to a place of worship who acted as though they were looking at entertainment instead of being prepared to worship and praise God; depicted not (only) by their attire, but mainly by his or her mannerism during the service?*

Now, you may take the position that when embracing visitors, it is not about clothing or judging someone's presence. I get that; however, I have seen visitors, in a place of worship, talking, smirking; engaged in distracting mannerisms. Reverence of the service was lacking, clearly evident by their behavior. Yet, this is a noteworthy observance: In the case of the parable above, the servants brought both good and bad to the hall; *it was the king who did the sifting.*

Today's Wedding Clothes

My results were disappointing in that I could not find, if that is the case today, what would be considered a specific wedding garment apart from a man's traditional attire of the faith. For example, the *kippah*, also known as the *yarmulke*, and the Jewish prayer shawl. (Now, if you, *the reader*, can share with a viable reference that supports specific wedding garment attire, please share your feedback; it will be truly welcomed.)

Surely, The Lord does not place more on us than we can bear when He bids us to come to Him. He wants us to come to Him just as we are; however, He desires us to come to Him respectfully. *When Jesus spoke this parable, are we to receive that this guest was partially naked or bare on parts of his body? Was this guest wearing attire unbecoming for a man? Only God our Father and the Lord Jesus truly knows for sure, but do we want to speculate how low we can go? I certainly don't like to, but the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and understanding.* We should come boldly before the throne of grace; however, with holy reverence. God our Father wants us to come before Him, but not just any kind of way that is disrespectful to His Son and His Son's divine plan for us as followers.

Psalms 51:15-17: ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. ¹⁶For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.

There is no private interpretation to God's holy Word. Perhaps, according to this parable, the king looked the guests over to ensure that they were in order. Perhaps the king's observance of his second group of invitees may correlate to how our Lord and our God sees those who are posturing in church, or who represent a spiritual walk of unpreparedness. God sees, for example, how some can come to experience His Son's wedding (Jesus and the Church), but yet present themselves in a posture that does not reflect their willingness to appropriately partake in worship and praise for how and why Jesus lived, died, and rose again. I see the wedding as representing God's desire for those to be present when He returns in a twinkling of an eye; cumulating the union of His beloved Son to His Chosen—both Jews and Gentiles—on that Glad Morning.

Revelation 19:5-8: ⁵Then a voice came from the throne, saying, *Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!* ⁶And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, *Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!* ⁷*Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.* ⁸And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹Then he said to me, *Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'* And he said to me, *These are the true sayings of God.*

When the first group of invitees would not come, God the Father allowed others on the outskirts to come before Him; yet as represented by the unprepared guest in Jesus' parable, there will be those who will want to come, but would be considered unworthy; either because they believe they can come as they pleased, but will be faced with rejection. We Believers do not want to be that guest who came before God without His requested covering.

The Cost

Think about this: *Have you ever sacrificed paying towards an expense in order to celebrate a family member, a friend, a loved one? Had any regrets? Oh! I spent too much on Christmas shopping; I took this trip because a friend was getting married....* I'm sure the list can go on and on—and quite a trivial list at that—compared to what we may have placed at risk (late fees, discontinuance of service, etc. Not always bad, but sometimes!). *How does our challenges compare to what Jesus did for the world?* Jesus did not say following Him would be easy, but when He calls, not only should we be willing, we should be grateful. *What should we do for the One who blesses us with the gift of salvation? This message is a two-edged sword!*

St. Luke 14:28-33: ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, sits not down first, and counts the cost, whether he has enough to finish it? ²⁹Lest perhaps, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, ³⁰Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. ³¹Or what king, going to make war against another king, sits not down first, and consults whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him that comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation, and desires conditions of peace. ³³So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsakes not all that he has, he cannot be my disciple.

The Invitation

So, if you have accepted The Invitation, it means you have a desire to see The King! It means that you are in a position of worship and willingness to celebrate the One who unites us with God the Father. It should also mean that you counted the cost, and are prepared and ready to go on to receive the blessings according to God's Holy Will—the gift of The Holy Spirit and the gift of salvation. You also receive that you are not of this world.

Psalms 23:1-6: ¹The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. ²He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. ⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

When coming to the Lord, He does not make it hard to receive His Invitation; it is made hard because of knack for leaning to our own understanding, which at times can be contrary to the Word of God. Therefore, if one is not prepared, it means there is simply no excuse for it (as in the case of the parable when the man had no response or excuse for the king). God blesses us all with a free will. If our Lord and our Heavenly Father extends *The Invitation*, it most certainly means that the invitee is equipped to accept the invitation, or that if one accepts the invitation, one should not disrespect the blessings that come with The Invitation. Furthermore, it is not about doing one's *own thing*...which is becoming more and more prominent these days. We are to learn of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to commit to a way of life based upon the Holy Scriptures.

Matthew 11:28-30: *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*

The Father's Guests

As it is presented by the parable, it reveals how the king was in control and would not allow anyone to come and dine before Him or His Son in a manner that was

disrespectful. As it is today, some people will not come—no excuses given. Some will not come because they do not want to; providing excuses, and some will come, but not be ready, because the Holy Spirit does not rest, rule, and abide in them. *What type of guest are you going to be?*

Matthew 8:64-65: ⁶⁴ For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He said, **Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto Me, except it were given unto him of my Father.**

John 14:6: **Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

Luke 14:15-20(a); Luke 24: ¹⁵ And when one of them that sat at table with Him heard these things, he said unto Him, *Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.* ¹⁶ Then said He [Jesus] unto him,

A certain man gave 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.' 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 go and see it: I pray you have me excused.' ¹⁹ And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them: I pray you have me excused.' ²⁰ And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' ^{21(a)} So that servant came, and showed his lord these things....

²⁴ **For I say unto you, That none of those men who were bidden shall taste of my supper.**

Remember when I indicated above that the Lord and our God does not make it hard? These guests were invited to a great supper—a feast—but chose not to attend. Is it difficult for you to digest the Holy Word—is this what keeps you from accepting who Jesus is and what He is to you? Seek someone who is an anointed teacher to assist you in expounding upon the Holy Scriptures, but first ask God in the name of Jesus for guidance as to where you can attend bible study and Sunday School, or expound upon the Holy Bible with others for greater spiritual understanding.

The Bread of Life

To feed at the Master's table is to feed upon God's Word. *How can one become spiritually blessed and favored without digesting the Word of God? One can't!* Those who are called to God's Table, but reject His Invitation, forfeit their right to enter into the kingdom of God because the Word of God is not in them. Even if a person accepts God's Invitation (as in the parable of the guest who was not wearing a wedding garment (Matthew 22:1-14), if that person does not come correct, he will be cast out of the presence of God.

John 4:32: **But He said to them, I have food to eat of which you do not know.**

John 4:34: **Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.**

Now consider this scripture:

John 6:55: **For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.**

The above scripture, John 6:55, was hard for some of Jesus' followers because they were unable to understand and *digest* the spiritual essence and truth of His statement. Those who are blessed to be called a Child of God would receive enlightenment, while others remain in darkness because their hearts cannot receive His message; therefore, they will be more apt to turn away. They turn away from, or will refuse The Invitation to come dine at the Master's table because they cannot handle His spiritual food. As we know as Believers, to reject to come dine with at the Master's table is to reject His Son Jesus—the Bread of Eternal Life.

God's Invite Extends Love to All

Luke 14: 21(b)-23 (the continuation of Jesus' parable):

^{21(b)} ...So that servant came, and showed 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 here the poor, and the maimed, and the lame, and the blind.' ²² And the servant said, 'Lord, it is done as you have commanded, and yet there is room.' ²³ And the lord said unto the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'

God our Father, The Creator, welcomes all! The poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind. No one has a corner market, whether Jew or Gentile. God welcomes all to come before Him—what He wants is for us to have a made up mind to come to Him and celebrate His glorious Son. *This is beautiful!* It does not matter how one looks or the type of physical challenges one has, God requests all!

Acts 15:9: He made no distinction between us and them, for He cleansed their hearts by faith.

The Book of Acts 15:9 described how the Holy Spirit came upon the Gentiles that were in the presence of Apostle Peter (Acts 10:44-48). Apostle Peter learned that God's will to empower with the Holy Ghost, whether Jew or Gentile, will be bestowed upon those who receive Him in spirit and in truth. Just like today, if you are not saved, but now receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit is welcomed—you *make way for The Comforter to come into your life!* By accepting Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, you have, in turn, enabled the invite for the presence of the Holy Spirit to abide in you. You would now be on the path of learning more about the gift of salvation.

Make No Excuses

Jesus' parable of a king, a groom, and invitees (good and bad), represents us today in how we receive God's only begotten Son Jesus, and how we have been invited to celebrate Him for His willingness to be *married* to us—the Church. Jesus' parable may also signify that anyone who believes that he or she can come into the presence of The Most High unprepared in spirit and in truth will not obtain the blessings and covering of the Holy Spirit. *So, what's the message? We have to get right and be always ready!*

Psalms 51:10-13: ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.

If King David, the man after God's own heart, who sinned by laying with another man's wife, impregnating her, and then attempted to cover up his adulterous act by killing her husband, had the mindset to repent, why would we not want to do the same if we fall short of God's glory? Remember, we all have sinned.

As we meditate upon and learn the Word of God for ourselves, we can then share King David's testimony to others who think they are unworthy. *If you are not yet transformed and renewed, you can receive Jesus the Christ as your personal Lord and Savior—invite Him in! I pray that we, as servants of God, while steadfast and immovable in Him, will and must continue to help you and others by assisting in your spiritual growth while there's still time. This is The Great Commission (Matt. 28:16-20):*

Matthew 28:16-20 ¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, **All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.** ¹⁹ **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** ²⁰ **and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**

Many are Called

There will be many who will not harken to the voice of The Lord and our God. There will be those who will receive an invitation—whether by hearing a church sermon, a Believer’s testimony, via multimedia evangelism (ex: television, radio, DVDs, CDs, cassettes), or by the ultimate communication—hearing the voice of The Lord for him- or herself, but yet still doubt His goodness and gift of salvation. Upon hearing and learning the Word of God, I pray that it quickens the spirit of the unbeliever, by the power of the Holy Spirit; encouraging him or her to learn to become more like The Holy One; The One who is able to keep us all from falling into spiritual condemnation. I know that my Lord and my God and the Holy Spirit is Truth. *I am so glad I received His Invitation—I know God is real.*

The Model Prayer for a Follower

Luke 11:1-4: ¹ Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, *Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.*

² So He said to them,

When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ³ Give us day by day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us, and do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

If you have not received Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, please do so while you still have time. Ask Him to create in you a clean heart and renew a right spirit within you that you may not sin against Him. Don’t be like the man who angered the king, as depicted in Jesus’ parable, or like those who made up excuses. For the Lord and our God is merciful and kind. Slow to anger, plentiful in mercy. *Trust in Him... accept His Invitation.*

The King’s Servants

Romans 10:14-18: ¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!

¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says,

LORD, who has believed our report? ¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. ¹⁸ But I say, *Have they not heard? Yes indeed: Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.*

We are the servants of The King. In the parable that Jesus presented, He spoke of a king who instructed his servant to go out and gather people for his son’s wedding. We, the Believers, are represented in this parable. We are to go out and spread The Good News. We are to encourage others in all walks of life to come to The King (God the Father) to celebrate His Son’s union with the bride (the Church). We are not to just sit inside of a brick and mortar church, we are to go out and not discriminate against any

who may need to hear the Good News. ***As Believers, we are to follow the teachings and instructions of our Heavenly Father as it is written within the Holy Scriptures; then it is up to Him to do the sifting—not us!*** Notice that the servants brought both good and bad into the king's hall where the great supper was to be held (Matthew 22:10 NKJV). When the guests arrived, the king looked them over to determine who was ready. Based upon Jesus' parables, *it was the king's decision, not the servants, who decided who should stay and who should go. Furthermore, there is no indication that the king in Jesus' parable chastised any of his servants for bringing in the unprepared guest. The king asked for everyone to come—but the king also wanted those invited to come right. Are you ready for The Invitation?*

Stay Encouraged

We cannot truly fathom how great our Lord and God is, but what we can identify with is our Lord and our God's mercies towards us. Knowing that there are recorded accounts of how Jesus walked this earth—and knowing how He lived and died for us—should cause us to serve Him with an abundance of gratitude and humility. We know that we could never repay Him for what He has done, and continues to do for us, by the power of the Holy Spirit—we know this—but the way we can honor Him is to love and obey Him.

We should, therefore, be willing to spread the gospel so that the Holy Word may be received by all who will believe—and for those who truly believe, may we rejoice together, and be continually encouraged in knowing that we have a glorious expected end in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:14-16: ¹⁴Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

* * *

***There is no greater gift than the power of God's redemption.
So, if you've have not done so already, give your heart to Jesus while you still have time.
Have a transformed mind, look to Jesus.***

Be blessed and be a blessing. ❤️

*All biblical references are from the New Kings James Version (NKJV) - Public Domain.

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John 21:12-17
By Elder Diane Harvell

Normally when we invite someone to our home for dinner, it's usually with those whom we have delegated to share our time with and to whom we want to share our most important matters with. And it's usually with those whom we love and care about. Those in whom we trust. It is a known practice that certain generations and families from various cultures, sit together during dinner time and the head of the family or the family patriarchs imparts family legacies to the next generations. This used to be a great part of the American Way.

I remember as a child, dinnertime was always at the dinner table. And the head of the table was always respected as such. Conversation and family time were always the predominant factor and a joy to partake of.

Just as it may have been unbeknown to me as a child of the importance of this time, it was also unbeknown to the disciples, that here on the shores of the Tiberias River, that Christ was presenting himself as The Master Benefactor, as He beckoned them to come and dine with him. This was an open invitation to everything He was, and everything he had, and He wanted to impart himself unto them.

Jesus wanted to reveal Himself to those who would carry on in His name and to those who would teach and who would carry on His legacy.

Twice, Jesus invited His disciples to “come and dine” with him, first, before his crucifixion at The Last Supper, when He broke the bread which is symbolic of his broken body, then offering the wine, symbolic of his blood which was shed for the remission our sins. And, now here at Lake Tiberias with the disciples an appearance he made after His resurrection.

Everything Jesus said at this time was symbolic. He told them to put their net on the right side of the boat, symbolizing that he now was placed on the right hand of the Father. He told them that if they did, they would catch some fish. They caught many fish. To me, this symbolized the souls that would be received in Him that when we are in God and if we obey His Son Christ Jesus, not only will we bring many others to Christ, but we will have the power and authority to do so as well. Prior to this, before Jesus arrived on the scene, the disciples worked all night and had caught nothing.

Jesus knew the disciples were ready for physical work, but now He had to ensure they were ready spiritually. He asks Peter three times, “Lovest thou me more than these?” “More than these?” Peter was a fisherman by trade, Christ was asking him, do you love me more than your money? Peter becomes upset because the Lord asked him three times about his love for him and Peter replies, “thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, “Feed my sheep.”

These three simple words are insightful and impactful because the sheep Jesus referred to are His people. Peter was given a face to face RSVP by Jesus Christ himself. Jesus requested a response from Peter, one that would bring Him many returns.

And so, within this "The Invitation", Jesus offered Himself as a living sacrifice The Holy Eucharist for all people, old and young (lambs and sheep), black, brown, red or white, to "Come and Dine."

Please RSVP as soon as possible.

God Bless You All,
Elder Diane Harvell

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John 21:12-13

12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

Have you ever went some place or visited someone's home or church and didn't feel welcomed? The visit was so unpleasant that you almost regret going. Well, this is why God states in his word that his thoughts are not our thoughts and neither are our ways his ways. (Isa. 55:*). From the verses we read in John 21 chapter we see the hospitality of Jesus. He didn't care about the disciples flaws or hang-ups. He didn't care about what they were wearing. He cared about them as individuals and he saw an opportunity to demonstrate not only fellowship, but Godly hospitality. He invited them to come and dine. He had prepared a spiritual table before them that they could come together. Take note that the same Jesus who performed all miracles and overcame gravity is the same Jesus that is showing himself after his resurrection to the disciples.

Jesus showed us a valuable lesson when he yet performed the duties of a servant when he invited his disciples to come and eat. With us being the children of God and joint heirs with Christ we should possess that same character. It should not only be to our best friends or to our husband's or wife's family. It should be to demonstrate the love, humility and servitude of Christ to all that they may see the love of Christ in us.

Many have failed in this area especially those who are the door keepers in the house of God. Too many have turned people away by their ungodly disposition. As ushers, ministers of the Gospel we should be practicing how to welcome people in. The same way Jesus showed the disciples loved and welcomed them to fellowship, break bread and drink; we should do the same. Instead of telling people to come to God, let them know that they are welcomed in the body of Christ. Draw them with lovingkindness. Even if we are going out to eat, text or call someone and let them know that they are welcome to join you.

Let us not seem so distant or so holy that we miss the opportunity to show our godly hospitality.



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The Invitation Claude Dangerfield II Th.D.

The invitation that we will describe today will be like no other, that one will ever experience in life. The main reason one will receive it is that it has been determined that you, yes you matter in more ways than you can ever imagine. It doesn't matter that you may have or have not had shortcomings in various areas of your life. It has nothing to do with your race, gender or economic status. It just comes down to the fact that you are you and you have heard the extended invitation and have not hardened your heart. But you have actually opened it to receive that which is being extended unto you! You have decided to change the narrative in your life and to become a Victor and not a Victim. You had a choice and you took it.

Even in accepting this invitation you felt compelled to be transparent. You felt within yourself that you were unworthy of the grace which is being extended to you, so you felt a need to confess the reasons for such feelings. Upon confessing you also felt such a heavyweight of guilt being lifted off of you. An immediate feeling of gratification consume you and a joy unspeakable is now a large part of your demeanor. You physically look different to others because your countenance appears different to those who know you. Your conversation has totally changed and your outlook on life has taken a new path to the point of inspiring others.

The invitation from Christ for the new birth is real. For we were born into sin when we enter this life due to the environment that we are in. The focus of this world is to follow the trends of this world at all cost even to the detriment of others. We found ourselves being self-consumed and manipulative to those who cross our paths. The amount of harm that we tend to administer created devastation to others with no remorse. That's the lifestyle of the lost not always aware of how we were so destructing. But once grace and mercy stepped in and awareness was present the blinders were removed and reality became truth. Now that we were able to see shame overwhelm us to the point of repentance because of the outcome of our future being death.

Jesus offered many passages of comfort within the scriptures: Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hears my voice, and open the door, I will come into him and will sup with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I have come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. John.16:33

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 1John 4:4

These are just a few to reassure you that the invitation is real and available to everyone the choice is ours to take and receive this great invitation and experience a great life in and with God through his son Jesus Christ. Who paid the ransom for us with his life that we too can have eternal life. Who could have endured the cross with such torture and pain? Only our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The invitation is available right now, even now if you are reading this article and don't have a relationship with him. He makes himself available in so many different ways. All you have to do is confess with your mouth that you are a sinner and ask Jesus to forgive you of your sin and to come into your life that you too may be saved. Becoming an heir of salvation along with his grace and mercy to sustain you throughout your life. When you become part of the family you truly learn what real life is about you gain the keys to the Kingdom giving you access to an abundance of His wisdom and knowledge. You will discover your true path, potential, and your destiny. Your transformation will take you to places that you may have never seen. Now that you are converted you will see life through a different lens and create a different narrative for yourself as you introduce others to your new blessed lifestyle. Oh taste and see that the Lord is good! Come on board and welcome to the family!



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@ 12:00 PM



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Beyond The Four Walls.

Claude Dangerfield II

Have you really taken out time to speak with people regarding the reason they choose not to attend church? Well, I have because I'm concerned with the decline because if you really think about it, it's not to blame God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit. But it has more to do with what they encounter when they enter in. Keep in mind that this does not reflect on all houses of worship, because most are very welcoming and compassionate towards those seeking God. There is a large number of individuals who have the scars of church hurt which has been placed upon them by persons who are unequipped in helping others through their period of transition. Why you may ask, lack of patience, lack of knowledge and understanding because they view life through one lens. That lens does not contain the compassion of Jesus Christ but reflects more so the personality of the Scribes and Pharisees looking to judge that which they feel should be condemned.

We who work in ministry must possess the spirit of meekness and humility along with a servants mentality. We serve the will of the Father who has called us to this place. With love and kindness have I drawn thee, instead of looking at an individual in the physical sense and drawing and expectation from that point, major errors happen which drive people away. If we desire to view through that lens then we need to take the approach of a natural infants birth that grows and matures into an adult.

The Spiritual birth should be reviewed within that same reasoning. As a natural baby has to receive natural nutrients to grow and to walk. Such is the path for the newly born in Christ their nutrients is through the Word of God, they have to be taught and nurtured first on the milk of the Word than then as their understanding grows the meat of the Word. So they too will grow into the desire to serve others and help them to live for Christ.

One thing we must be aware of is this, just as a natural child mimics their older siblings and even their parents. We must always be mindful of our conversation and behavior in their presence that we lead them not astray back into the things of this world in which God had called them from. We are caregivers one to another, not only are we accountable to God, but those whom he has entrusted to us to be an example before them. When and if we error we must take appropriate action in repenting first and restoring the relationships. Otherwise, we can be found guilty of dividing the

Words and actions go along way in creating spiritual scars in peoples life. When trust has been broke it is devastating to the one wounded within the action. We all must put pride aside especially when we ourselves know and understand our own shortcomings and need for God's grace and mercy in those areas. Not allowing them to be the tool that creates harm for another trying to walk in the path of salvation. Let us remember we are encouraged to treat others as we ourselves which to be treated with brotherly love. Let us remain concerned about one another.

We all may have different views on this subject but most also be conscious of our impact another's lives.

Marry Me

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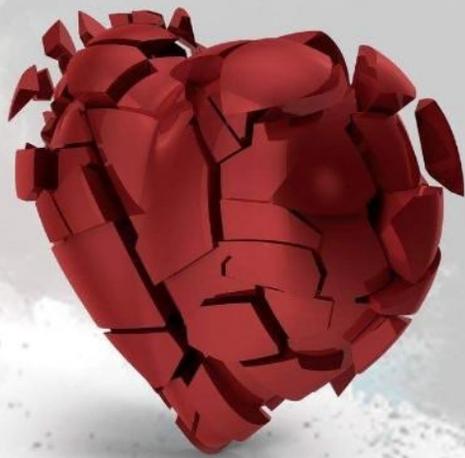
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