

Verse 24 is an awful saying. It is like that other saying of Jesus, ch. 13 : 34, 35; like that still more awful saying, Prov. 1 : 24-28.

Who was to blame that they were shut out? Who will be to blame if *we* are shut out?

In closing, show, once more, how foolish are all excuses for remaining away from Christ, and refusing to receive the good things which God offers us in Him; and urge the scholars to come to the Saviour here and now.

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Lesson Points

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, B.D.

The more fervently we hope for heaven, the more faithful should we be in the duties of earth. v. 15.

No soul need hunger, with divine grace all around like the harvest of the prairies. v. 16.

The gospel offers men the choicest blessings for the present, as well as the brightest prospects for the future. v. 17.

Folly is none the less fatal because it is fashionable. v. 18.

Wheat may be a foe to holiness. v. 18.

Religion will prove, not a hindrance, but a help, in our daily work. v. 19.

The happiest homes are those whose windows are open towards heaven. v. 20.

Where men are neediest, there God is nearest. v. 21.

Grace knows no limit of country, or color, or creed. v. 22.

The penalty of rejecting the gospel offer is to be rejected. v. 23.

From the Library

For a great supper, preparation is made beforehand. If an ox or a heifer is to be provided for the feast, a very large number must be invited, since the whole of the flesh must be consumed at once, meat in the East never being kept over night.—Tristram.

If a sheikh beg, or emeer invites, he always sends a servant to call you at a proper time. This servant often repeats the very formula mentioned in Luke 14 : 17 : "Come, for the supper is ready."—W. M. Thomson.

It is beautifully remarked by Bengel, that there is another baying of a field (Matt. 13 : 44), another setting of the hand to the plough (Luke 9 : 62), the participation in another wedding (2 Cor. 11 : 2), which would not

have hindered the accepting of this invitation, since rather they would one and all have been identical with it.—Trench.

If you knew God—and what those "things" are which He has prepared for them that love Him, all "excuses" would be flung to the winds. It would not be, "Have me excused !" but, "I come ! I come !" "Me first—me now—me forever ! Lord, bid me—Lord, let me—Lord, make me come !"—Vaughan.

God, when He's angry here with any one, His wrath is free from perturbation;

And when we think His looks are sour and grim,

The alteration is in us, not Him.

—Herrick.

Only the first few stragglers, as it were, from the streets and lanes and highways, have yet taken their seats; but the messengers of the Lord of the feast are busy over an ever-widening area, carrying the invitation to an ever-increasing multitude. We should not be missed, amid the numbers without number that people heaven, but oh, how much we should miss !—W. M. Taylor.

Prove from Scripture

That we are commanded to be kind.

Lesson Questions

[FROM THE HOME STUDY QUARTERLY]

Juniors—Where was Jesus when He spoke this parable?

15 About what had He been speaking? Who was led to desire the blessings of heaven? How did he express this desire?

16, 17 What story did Jesus tell? Who is meant by "a certain man"? What by the "supper"? By the "servants" of v. 17? What by all things being "ready"?

18-21a. Tell the excuses made by the guests first invited. Give their real reason for not coming to the feast. What should we do with God's invitations?