

A great multitude will enjoy the gospel blessings. Will we be among them? None of those . . . bidden shall taste, etc.; not through any grudging in the giver, but because they have put the feast away from themselves. Will any of us treat God's invitation so?

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—False excuses, Luke 14: 15-24. T.—Invitations despised, Matt. 22: 1-10. W.—The gospel rejected, Acts 13: 42-52. Th.—Punishment of rejectors, Prov. 1: 20-33. F.—Loss by refusal, Ps. 81: 3-18. S.—Would not hear, Zech. 7: 8-14. S.—Gracious invitation, Isa. 55: 1-7.

Prove from Scripture—*That we are commanded to be kind.*

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 24. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?* A. Christ executeth the office of a prophet in revealing to us, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

The Question on Missions—29. How are the adults reached with the gospel? More than 100 services are held in churches and schoolhouses each Sabbath, by missionaries and native preachers, and through the week the gospel is carried to the homes of the people. The printed page is also used.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 251 (Supplemental Lesson); 26; 136; 27 (Ps. Sel.); 560 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 101.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

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?

21b-24 Who were now called to enjoy the feast? Whom do these represent? What about the guests invited at first? Who was to blame for their being shut out?

Seniors and the Home Department—What led to the speaking of the parable of the Lesson?

15-17 What is required of us in order to enjoy the blessings of salvation? (Isa. 55: 1; Matt. 11: 28; John 7: 37; Rev. 22: 17.)

18-21a Show that nothing should keep us from accepting Christ's invitations. (Mark 10: 29, 30; Luke 18: 22.) Who despised his birthright? What was the result? (Hob. 12: 16, 17.)

21a-24 Is there plenty of room in heaven? (John 14: 2; Rev. 7: 4-9.) Need any one be shut out from it? (Matt. 9: 13; Luke 19: 10; 1 Tim. 1: 15.)

THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. Who would not gladly pluck and eat the large, luscious fruit? But not all are so willing to take the trouble of planting the tree and caring for it. Everybody wants to go to heaven. But mere wanting to go will never get us there. If we would win, we must work.

2. What does it cost not to be a Christian? It costs all that this feast stands for—pardon, the friendship of God, peace of conscience, a clean heart, the strength and comfort of prayer, the presence and help of the Holy Spirit, all the promises of the Bible from cover to cover, the never-ending bliss of heaven. Who can afford to pay so great a price for not being a Christian?

3. Mark Twain tells of an Oriental who was asked for the loan of an axe. He declined, saying that he needed it himself to use in eating soup. Reminded that one does not eat soup with an axe, he replied, "When one is determined not to do a thing, any excuse is good enough."

4. In court language, when a subject is invited to the royal table, it is said that His Majesty "commands" his presence there. So every invitation of Jesus is a kingly command, and it is at our peril that we disobey.

5. "The saints on earth, and all the dead,
But one communion make;
All join to Christ, their living Head,
And of His grace partake."

6. How would "HUNT AND HELP" do as a class motto? First "Hunt." Find those near you who should be invited and persuaded to come to the Sunday School. Learn all you can about the needs of people in our own land and in heathen lands. Then, "Help." Get hold of the work somehow, and do your best to help make it go.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What story does Jesus here tell?

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2. What does it teach about God's feelings towards us?

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3. How should we treat God's invitations?

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