

# The Message

Pastor Ron Smith

# The Invitation

## Matthew 22

<sup>1</sup>And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said, <sup>2</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king [God] who arranged a marriage for his son [the New Covenant], <sup>3</sup>and sent out his servants [the prophets] to call those who were invited [the Jews] to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. <sup>4</sup>Again, he sent out other servants [more prophets], 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.”’ <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. <sup>6</sup>And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city [the destruction of Jerusalem]. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited [the Jews] were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find [the Gentiles], invite to the wedding.’ <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment [not clothed in the righteousness of Christ]. <sup>12</sup>So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>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.’ <sup>14</sup>”For many are called, but few are chosen.”

treasures that lie in the little bolted box whose key is  
hidden in the room of the stars, being secret and filled with  
treasures I hold them in my hand - are straining at  
the sides and the lid and the two ends of the little box  
to open. They are straining and straining among them to  
open the door and give them sleep finally. But the door is hidden  
and is far more desperate than their might. And so I  
pretend to have lost the key to the little house of my  
treasures. I weariness was I to open it, and not become

**For the fine linen is the  
righteous acts of the saints  
(Revelation 19:8).**

# How God Saves Men

**First:** He wakes us up.

**Second:** He then convinces us of sin, righteousness, and judgment to come.

**Third:** He makes us understand that Christ made atonement for our sins through His death.

**“For by grace you are saved  
through faith; and that is the gift  
of God; not of works or we could  
brag about it (Ephesians 2:8-9).**

# The Danger of “Decisionism”

Many will think they have done  
what God wanted by simply saying  
the sinners’ prayer and will now see  
no need to be converted.

# Dangers of the Invitation System

“Many today equate ‘coming to faith’ with ‘coming down the aisle.’ Such an equation is not only inaccurate, it is dangerous because it deceives many into resting their faith on a ‘profession’ rather than on Christ.”

# The Importance of Understanding

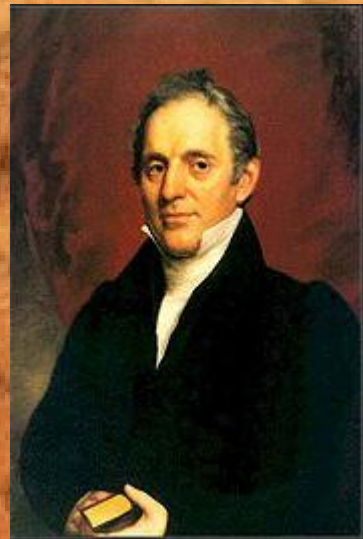
**Matthew 13:19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart.

## A Recent Invention

Charles Finney invented it 180 years ago.

# Asahel Nettleton

## *Conversions of the Great Awakenings*



# God Commands Us to Make Our Calling and Election Sure

2 Peter 1:10

Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

**God Also Commands Us to Examine  
Ourselves and Make Sure We Are  
in the Faith • 2 Corinthians 13:5**

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this is about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?— unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

## Ezekiel 13:10

Precisely because they have misled my people, saying, 'Peace,' when there is no peace, and because, when the people build a wall, these prophets smear it with whitewash, say to those who smear it with whitewash that it shall fall!

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