

Sunday Morning Message

May 20, 2018

You're Invited – A Study of Invitations in the Bible

Text – Revelation 3:14 - 20

Congregational Reading – Revelation 3:20 - 22

Introduction

In our text this morning, we see the Lord Jesus invited individuals from within the church of the Laodiceans to invite Him into their hearts and lives through the door of salvation. The Church at Laodicea was a very affluent church that had accumulated a great deal of wealth through three main industries: black wool, eye salve, and banking. Laodicea was also known for its lukewarm water. The city did not have a good cold water source for water so it had to have its water piped in via aqueducts from the hot springs of Hierapolis, which was seven miles to the north; or the cold water from Colosse and the Phrygian Mountains, which was eleven miles to the east. Jesus stated that the spiritual condition of the church was like the water in Laodicea, and it made Him sick. Inside of this very wealthy, independent and faithless congregation were many lost people that Jesus wanted to reach with the gospel. The letter was written to the church corporately, but the invitation was given to individuals within the church.

And, because Laodicea is a picture of the spiritually apostate condition of the Christianity in these last days, the invitation given in verse twenty applies to individuals today.

I Invitation to Salvation

Revelation 3:20 is an invitation to salvation. Throughout the Bible, there are many different types of invitations given by God to people.

By the way, because God is always inviting people to respond to Him, we as a church will continue to invite people to respond as well.

"Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:13-14)

In the Bible, water is often a picture of salvation.

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." (John 7:37)

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Revelation 22:17)

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith,

Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:9-13)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Have you responded to God's invitation to salvation. Has there been a time in your life when you accepted God's invitation to receive Him as your Saviour. You need to respond to the invitation.

Turn to Luke 14:16 – 24 – many were invited to the supper, but they did not respond.

See also Matthew 22:1 – 14 – many were invited to the wedding, but did not respond.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:18)

II Invitation to Supplication – God invites us to pray

"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." (Psalm 50:14-15)

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jeremiah 33:3)

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8)

III Invitation to Separation

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you," (2 Corinthians 6:17)

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:1-2)

Regarding separation, there are some invitations by people that we should not accept:

"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." (Proverbs 1:10)

IV Invitation to Service

Jesus invited Peter and Andrew to follow Him:

"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19)

Jesus also invited Matthew to serve Him:

"And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him." (Matthew 9:9)

He invites us also to follow Him in service:

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

In Isaiah 6:1 – 9, God invited Isaiah and He responded.

In Ezekiel 22:30, God was looking for a man to stand in the gap, and make up the hedge of spiritual protection for Israel, but unfortunately He couldnot find any willing to accept the challenge.

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." (Ezekiel 22:30)

V Invitation to Sacrifice

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38)

Turn to Exodus 35:5 – 9; 21 – 29 – God invited them to give, and they gave. In fact they gave too much. (See Exodus 36:6 – 7)

Jesus invited a very successful and wealthy young man to receive Him and then sacrifice for Him, but unfortunately, he didn't accept the invitation:

"Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions." (Mark 10:21-22)

VI Invitation to Be Social (To Be Close)

Jesus does not want to be a distant deity that rules with an iron rod. He yearns for fellowship; for a close relationship with those who belong to Him.

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ... If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." (John 15:4, 7)

"Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine ..." (John 21:12)

In our text verse, He said He wanted to sup with us.

Jesus does not just invite us to have a relationship with Him through salvation. He invites us to come in close to Him; to be intimate with Him.

"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you ..." (James 4:8)

Conclusion

What is the Lord inviting you to do.

A practical application of this message is that we are to always be looking for opportunities to respond to what the Lord is asking us to do. When we read the Scriptures, and when we listen to messages, be attentive to the invitations that God is giving you, and be ready to respond. Always say yes to the Lord. Say it clearly, and be willing to say it publicly. Don't be ashamed of the Lord.

Is He inviting you to be saved?

To supplicate (to pray)?

To Separate?

To Serve?

To Sacrifice?

To Be Social (to be His friend)?

These are just six of the types of invitations given by God to His people?

Say yes to God's invitation.