

that God's work is first. WE must realize that God's will should be first in our lives. It is a question really of preference--of putting things in their proper place. That does not mean to leave out these other things. It does not mean to cast them aside, but it means to give them their proper place and know that if we place God first in what we do that He will enable us to overcome the difficulties that may arise from the necessity of taking care of these things.

What does the banquet represent? The banquet in the parable has various matters it represents. It represents in a way ~~xxx~~ all the ~~xxx~~ blessings that God wants to give us. First, of course it represents our salvation. In the communion service we celebrate what Jesus Christ did for us. Jesus said, Except you eat my flesh and drink my blood you have no life in you. You cannot enter the kingdom of God. We partake of Him as we remember His death, and we remember what He did for us.

Of course, we expect in a group like this that everyone has come to know the Lord and really does know Him. Yet there is always the possibility, in fact in a group as large as this it is almost a certainty that there are some who have never really turned from their sin and turned to the Lord. There is always that possibility. The Lord wants us to think of what God has offered us through the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation from sin and he wants us to realize that nothing in life is so important that we're sure we're not on the road to eternal destruction but that we are on the road that God wants ~~xxx~~ us to go heading toward life everlasting.

As we deal with people and as we present the Word of God we will have all sorts of excuses presented. Excuses that sound good, excuses that are perfectly valid perhaps in themselves but the Lord wants us to see the fallacy of each one. Not merely to be able to show others what they are, but to think the matter through for ourselves: are you absolutely sure that you have definitely received Jesus Christ into your life and heart. That you truly belong to Him? He has said, I stand at the door and knock, if He has said, Whosoever comes to me . . . He has given us the offer, but how many there are in the world who care to put on the outward appearance of belonging to Christ but who do not truly know Him.

The Lord wants everyone of us to think this through and to be absolutely sure that we have received Jesus Christ into our hearts and are truly saved through what he has done. There is no reason for anyone to hesitate or delay on this matter. The excuses are all invalid. Nothing is more important than this.

But that while it is certainly involved in the parable is not the primary thrust of this particular parable. I think the Lord is here speaking to those who already know the Lord. He ~~x~~ is saying I have a banquet prepared for ~~xxx~~ you. I have wonderful blessings prepared for you in studying God's Word, in communion with God. He has marvellous blessings for us in putting Him first and making our lives count for him to the utmost. He has marvellous