

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Excuses, Excuses"

By Pastor Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Church, Norton

In Luke 14: 16 - 24, Jesus teaches using the "Parable of the Great Banquet." In it, Jesus shares about a man who was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. It was the custom then, as it is today, to send out invitations to such a special event quite a long time in advance. Then, as the actual day approached, a more personal invitation was extended.

God, too, has issued a personal invitation of salvation to all people. The question is this, "What are you going to do with your personal invitation?" You can neither buy nor work your way into heaven. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith --and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God --not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2: 8, 9) You will only get to heaven by receiving the Lord's gift.

Jesus says, "Come, for everything is now ready." But, according to Scripture, instead of receiving the invitation joyfully, they all began to make excuses. The first said "I have just bought a field and I must go and see it. Please excuse me." It has been said that an alibi is a lie stuffed in the skin of an excuse. Many have used possessions for an excuse to reject the Holy Spirit's invitation of salvation. Another said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen,

and I'm on the way to try them out. Please excuse me." People get so busy with their work that they have no time for the Lord. One day you are going to die, and you will discover that business will go on as usual without you; but you will die without salvation. "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'"

This man has the weakest excuse of the three. He could have extended the invitation to his new wife. Christ died for all and all should be given the opportunity to accept or reject God's invitation. This man's natural affection for his wife kept him from Christ. Many is the time a pastor hears, "I don't come to church on

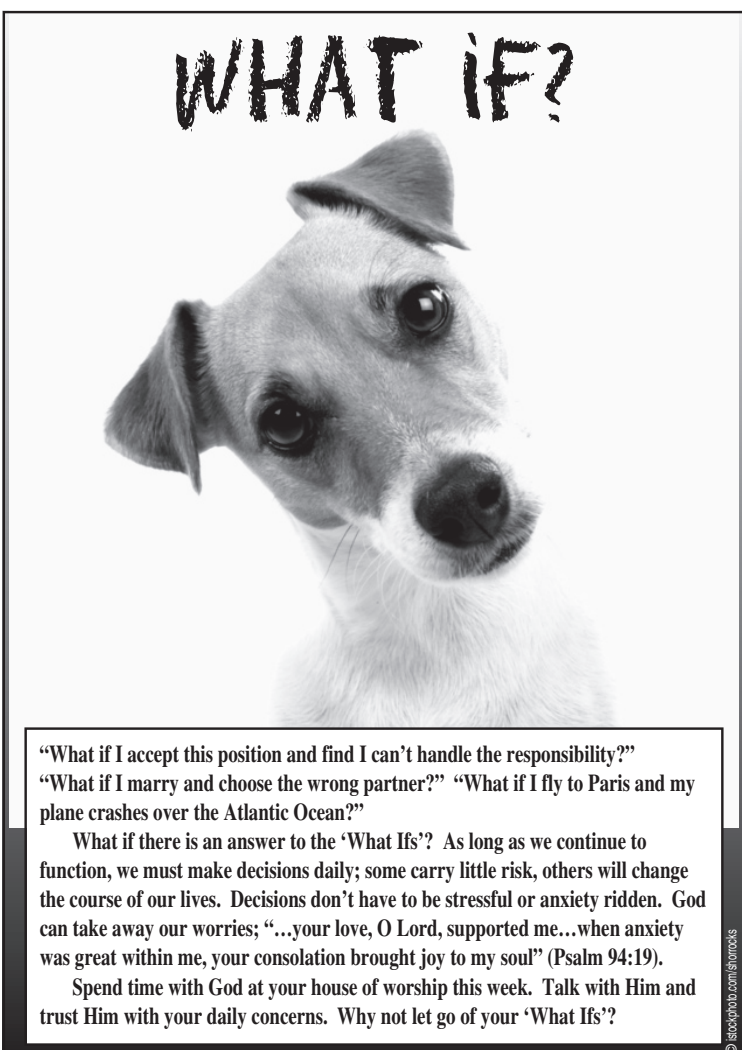
Sunday because it's my only day off. It is the only time I can spend with my family... (going shopping/fishing/working around the house, etc., etc.)"

These things -- possessions, business, natural affections --keep more people from Christ than anything else. What excuses do you have that are keeping you from the Lord? What excuses are keeping you out of fellowship with Him and other Christian believers? God has an engraved invitation for you. It is written in the blood of Jesus Christ.

God sends the Holy Spirit out into the streets and alleys of Norton. Through the Lord's servants you have been invited to receive Christ, but many of you have one excuse after another. Not one person in Jesus' parable said, "I will not come." No one overtly refused His invitation. They simply made excuses to cover up the fact that they did not want to come.

Jesus has a severe statement for those who reject God's invitation, "I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of My banquet." You are excluded from heaven because of your refusal to accept His invitation.

Will you offer excuses; or will you accept Jesus' invitation of salvation?



"What if I accept this position and find I can't handle the responsibility?" "What if I marry and choose the wrong partner?" "What if I fly to Paris and my plane crashes over the Atlantic Ocean?"

What if there is an answer to the 'What If's'? As long as we continue to function, we must make decisions daily; some carry little risk, others will change the course of our lives. Decisions don't have to be stressful or anxiety ridden. God can take away our worries; "...your love, O Lord, supported me...when anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul" (Psalm 94:19).

Spend time with God at your house of worship this week. Talk with Him and trust Him with your daily concerns. Why not let go of your 'What If's'?

Sunday Corinthians 11.17-34	Monday Leviticus 25.1-34	Tuesday Leviticus 25.35-55	Wednesday Deuteronomy 5.1-33	Thursday Deuteronomy 6.1-25	Friday Deuteronomy 15.1-18	Saturday Deuteronomy 16.1-22
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PUBLIC NOTICE

•PUBLIC NOTICE• GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, October 10, Tuesday, October 14, and Friday, October 17, 2008 (3T)

State of Kansas, Norton County, Kansas, October 7, 2008 as required by K.S.A. 25-209. Notice is hereby given that there will be a General Election held in Norton County November 4, 2008. The voting hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the regular voting places. And the Modell Twp voters will all vote at the Lenora Community Building, in Lenora. I, Robert D. Wyatt, County Election Officer of Norton County do hereby certify the following named persons for the respective offices indicated below, are entitled to a place on the Official Ballots in the General Election to be held in Norton County, November 4, 2008.

GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE NATIONAL OFFICES FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Nader and Gonzalez Independent Nominations
Obama and Biden Democratic
Baldwin and Castle Reform
Barr and Root Libertarian
McCain and Palin Republican

FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR

Pat Roberts, Dodge City Republican
Jim Slattery, Topeka Democratic
Randall I. Hodgkinson, Topeka Libertarian
Joseph L. Martin, St. Marys Reform

FOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE 1st DISTRICT

Jerry Moran, Hays Republican
Jack Warner, Wright Libertarian
James Bordonaro, Emporia Democrat
Kathleen M. Burton, Silver Lake Reform

STATE OFFICES FOR STATE SENATOR 40 DISTRICT

Ralph Ostmeier, Grinnell Republican

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 120 DISTRICT

Robert G. Strevey, Norcatour Democrat
John M. Faber, Brewster Republican

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 17 DISTRICT

William B. Elliott, Hill City Republican

COUNTY OFFICES FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER 2nd DISTRICT

Carolyn Applegate, Norton Republican

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER 3rd DISTRICT

John Miller, Norton Republican

FOR COUNTY CLERK

Robert D. Wyatt, Norton Republican

FOR COUNTY TREASURER

Cynthia Joan Linner, Norton Republican

FOR REGISTER OF DEEDS

Wanda M. Vincent, Norton Republican

FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY

R. Douglas Sebelius, Norton Republican

FOR COUNTY SHERIFF

Troy M. Thomson, Norton Republican

FOR TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE ALMENA

Shad Chandler, Almena Republican

FOR TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE ALMENA

Abner Williams, Almena Republican

JUDICIAL BALLOT

QUESTION NO. ONE

To vote for a Justice of the Supreme Court being retained in office, darken the oval to the left of the word "Yes." To vote against a Justice of the Supreme Court being retained in office, darken the oval to the left of the word "No."
 YES Shall ERIC S. ROSEN, Topeka, Position No. 4, Kansas Supreme Court, be retained in office?
 NO

YES Shall LEE A. JOHNSON, Topeka, Position No. 6, Kansas Supreme court, be retained in office?
 NO

QUESTION NO. TWO

To vote for a Judge of the Court of Appeals being retained in Office, darken the oval to the left of the word "Yes." To vote against a Judge of the Court of Appeals being retained in office, darken the oval to the left of the word "No."
 YES Shall STEVE LEBEN, Fairway, Post NO. 2, Kansas court Of Appeals, be retained in office?
 NO

YES Shall G. JOSEPH PIERRON, Lawrence, Position No. 3, Kansas Court of Appeals, be retained in office?
 NO

YES Shall CHRISTEL E. MARQUART, Topeka, Position No. 5, Kansas Court of Appeals, be retained in office?
 NO

YES Shall RICHARD D. GREENE, Wichita, Position No. 10, Kansas Court of Appeals, be retained in office?
 NO

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 Center Precinct No. 2 Courthouse Lobby
 Highland Precinct No. 1 Lenora Community Building
 All of Modell Lenora Community Building
 Highland Precinct #2 American Legion Building
 Highland Precinct #3 Courthouse Lobby
 Solomon Precinct No. 1 American Legion Building
 Old Belle Plain Courthouse Lobby
 Solomon Precinct No. 2 American Legion Building

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 Ward Two American Legion Building
 Ward Three American Legion Building
 Robert D. Wyatt
 Norton Co. Election Officer
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