

# Called And Chosen

We all need to know if we as Christians are both called and chosen, or only called by God at this time.

**There is a vast difference between being called and being chosen.**

We need to know the answer and we can **only** find it in God's Word, the Christian Bible.

First of all, let us examine the attitude of mind of those called but **not** chosen.

**Luke 14:15** [NIV] *“When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, **“Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”**”*

The subject is the wedding feast at the marriage of Jesus Christ and the Church, just after His return to earth. [**Revelation 19:6-9**]

**Will we be among those who are chosen to be there at the table?**

**Luke 14:7-11** [NIV] *“When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honour at the table, he told them this parable: “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this man your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. **But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’** Then you will be honoured in the presence of all your fellow guests. **For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”**”*

**The problem that Jesus Christ exposed was that of pride.**

Some guests expected not only to be chosen but also to have an important place at this feast.

**Luke 14:12-14** [NIV] *“Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. **But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed.** Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”*

What does this tell us?

Those invited to the feast will **not** always be those we expect, when we judge them by human standards.

**Luke 14:15** [NIV] *“When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”*

This man was inspired, I believe, by the Holy Spirit, to relate what Jesus Christ had said to the wedding feast at Christ's marriage to the Christian Church.

Jesus Christ then expanded on this thought.

**Luke 14:16-23** [NIV] *“Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and **invited many guests.** At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ **“But they all alike began to make excuses.** The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ “Still another said, ‘I have just*

got married, so I can't come.' "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full."

### **What do these weak excuses tell us about these people?**

They were too busy with physical tasks to spend time meditating on spiritual truth.

They took their calling too lightly.

### **They were too involved in this present society to accept this invitation to be chosen.**

What was the end result?

**Luke 14:24** [NIV] *"I tell you, **not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.**"*

They were called but **not** chosen.

**Matthew 22:1-2** [NIV] *"Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son."*

The same subject is being addressed by Jesus Christ, in this record of His words.

**Matthew 22:3-7** [NIV] *"He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' "But they paid no attention and went off, one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, ill-treated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city."*

### **Again those called rejected the chance to be chosen.**

These people even ill-treated and murdered those who brought the message of the Kingdom of God and Jesus Christ's return to this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords.

**Matthew 22:8-10** [NIV] *"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but **those I invited did not deserve to come.** Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, **both good and bad,** and the wedding hall was filled with guests."*

Again those who were chosen to attend the marriage feast were **not** those who would be chosen by human standards.

### **What Jesus Christ said next is of the greatest importance to every Christian.**

**Matthew 22:11-12** [NIV] *"But when the king came in to see the guests, **he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.** 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless."*

Notice certain things about this man's situation.

He was accepted by the servants of the King, Jesus Christ, but **not** by Jesus Christ Himself.

### **Only Jesus Christ recognised the lack of a wedding garment.**

The man himself could **not** understand why Jesus Christ was rejecting him, for he looked on himself to be a faithful Christian.

### **What was this wedding garment?**

**Zephaniah 1:7-8** [King James] *“Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests. And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD’s sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king’s children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel.”*

There was an appropriate dress for all such occasions.

The “*strange apparel*” was referring to costly garments that **only** the rich could afford to buy.

**This man thought that by his wealth he could buy his way into the Kingdom of God, and a place at the wedding feast of Jesus Christ and the Christian Church.**

**Matthew 19:16** [NIV] *“Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”*

This man desired a place in the eternal Kingdom of God.

**Matthew 19:17-23** [NIV] *“Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. **If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.**” “Which ones?” the man enquired. Jesus replied, “‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honour your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbour as yourself.’” “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?” Jesus answered, **“If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”** When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Then Jesus said to his disciples, “I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

### **Why was it so hard for this rich man to enter into the eternal Kingdom of God?**

**He was depending on his riches.**

This rich man had the same problem as the man dressed in rich clothes had, dependency on his own works and wealth.

### **What were the other guests dressed in?**

**1 Corinthians 1:26-28** [NIV] *“Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. **Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are,**”*

Those who were called and chosen were **not** found among the rich and famous who could afford this expensive clothing.

What this man was wearing was a costly garment “*strange apparel*”, so he was accepted by this world’s standards and even envied by the other guests, **but rejected by Jesus Christ.**

### **What clothing was appropriate for this wedding feast?**

**Isaiah 61:10** [NIV] *“I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. **For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**”*

It is Jesus Christ who provides this acceptable wedding garment.

### **What is this garment composed of?**

“*Salvation*” – we **only** receive this through accepting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, His death instead of our deserved death.

“*Righteousness*” – what righteousness is this?

**Isaiah 64:6** [NIV] “*All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.*”

Certainly **not** our own righteousness, which is only self-righteousness.

**Romans 13:14** [NIV] “*Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*”

What does this mean?

What is this clothing of Jesus Christ we are to put on?

**Romans 4:22-25** [NIV] “*This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom **God will credit righteousness, for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.***”

The “*him*” is referring to Abraham [v18] and his total faith in Jesus Christ.

This righteousness is that of Jesus Christ that we receive as a gift on our total faith in Him.

**Revelation 19:7-8** [NIV] “*Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. **Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.***” (*Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.*)”

Note two things regarding this wedding garment.

The bride prepared it in its final form.

She tailored it from the righteousness [fine linen] that was given to her.

How did this final tailoring take place?

By the righteous acts that she performed.

**Philippians 2:12-13** [NIV] “*Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, **continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.***”

Our final salvation is symbolic of being at the marriage supper of the Lamb [Jesus Christ].

Notice the two-way action referred to in this passage.

We “*work out*” what God has “*worked in.*”

### **What is involved in these two actions?**

**John 7:37-39** [NIV] “*On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. **Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has***

*said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

The “*last great day*” is symbolic of the return of Jesus Christ and His final judgement of all humanity.

What those people received who believed and trusted in Jesus Christ was the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit would then flow through them in acts of righteousness towards other people.

These are the result of the fruits of the Holy Spirit in us, the major fruit being love. [**Galatians 5:22-23**]

This is how we tailor a wedding garment that will be acceptable to Jesus Christ and God the Father.

**This is how we can be among those who are called but also chosen.**