

But They Made Light of It - Matt. 22:5

Introduction:

- A. People made light of the king's invitation.
- B. There are some things in life that can be treated lightly. Non important matters.
- C. There are some things in this life that can not be treated lightly:

I. Do Not Treat Yourself As Unimportant.

- A. Man is created in image of God (Gen. 1:26).
- B. Psalms 8:5,6
- C. Man is only creature of God with a soul. (Matt. 16:26).
 - 1. Matt. 10:28 "Fear not them..."
 - 2. Gen. 35:18 "And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin".
- D. The soul worth more than world itself (Mt. 16:26) and you have one!
- E. Those who fail to put God first and neglect their soul - make light of themselves.

II. Do Not Make light of Your Conscience.

- A. It must not be violated.
 - 1. Romans 14:22,23 "Do you have faith? Have *it* to yourself before God. Happy *is* he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *he does not eat* from faith; for whatever *is* not from faith is sin".
 - 2. James 4:17 "He that knows..."
- B. The conscience can be seared "Speaking lies in hypocrisy..."
- C. When considered lightly its voice can be silenced.
 - 1. When we habitually practice that which the conscience conmedns they can be practiced with ease. (Taking first drink, sex, missing worship, etc.)
 - 2. The gospel can trouble the heart of the sinner until after constant rejection, the voice of the conscience is stilled.

III. Do Not Consider Lightly Your Influence.

- A. Guard it as a precious jewel. "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim.4:12).
- B. To become a stumbling block to some one is tragic.
 - 1. To the one led astray.
 - 2. To the one who causes the other to stumble (Matt. 18:6).
 - 3. No one lives to himself. You influence someone.
 - a. 1 Peter 3:1-4.
 - b. 2 Tim. 1:5 "When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also."
 - 4. We influence those about us. That influence can remain long after we are gone (Heb. 11:4).

IV. We Must Not Consider Lightly The Word of God.

- A. It is able to save our souls (Jas. 1:21).
- B. We will be judged by it (John 12:48).
- C. To think that one can be saved without doing what the Bible says is to treat lightly the Word of God (Matt. 4:4).

V. We Must Not Treat Christ Lightly.

- A. He is our savior (Acts 4:12).
- B. He is coming again (John 14:3).
- C. We must not make light Hisd invitation (Matt. 11:28).