

EXCUSE ME FROM THE BANQUET

The Lord spoke this parable, “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for all is now ready.’

“But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master.

“Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant



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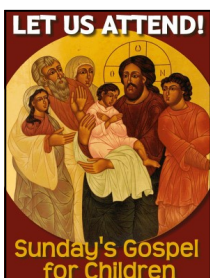
said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’

And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were

invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.’”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What is a parable?
2. Who tells this parable? Can you remember any other parables He told?
3. What is the point of this parable?
4. Have you ever been to a banquet? What did you enjoy the best?
5. What “banquet” are you invited to every week during Divine Liturgy? Why is this an important “banquet” to attend?
6. What excuses have you used (or thought about using) to not come to the “banquet”?



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