

[CON]VENIENCE

— A White's Chapel Sermon Series —

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[Con]venience: Life is Inconvenient

OPENING PRAYER

Invite a member of the group to lead prayer.

Read Matthew 22:1-10

“Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again, he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so, the wedding hall was filled with guests.”

Those who gave their lives in service to our country in order to make it a more perfect union, did not do so because it was the convenient thing to do. While many volunteered and others were drafted, they still chose to lay aside their personal aspirations and obligations to fight for a cause greater than themselves. It was not only inconvenient, it was dangerous. In our text today, Jesus shares a story to help the hearers understand what the Kingdom of God is like. The King (God the Father) sends out invitations to a wedding banquet for (God the Son) to worthy guests (the people of Israel). The King sent slaves (Hebrew prophets) to deliver the initial invitations, followed by the second set of slaves (Christian missionaries) but not only do people refuse to attend, some beat and murder the slaves.

The “worthy” people decided that attending the wedding banquet was not worth their time. Accepting the invitation and attending the wedding banquet was inconvenient for them. After all, they had their own plans. How often do we miss the blessings that God has for us because we are far too busy with our own plans? Is it possible that God is sending people on a regular basis inviting us to take a break from our routines and celebrate what God is doing? What might these invitations look like? Could it be an opportunity to serve at an Agape Meal, a ministry that feeds the food insecure and the homeless at Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth? Could it be that it is an opportunity to take a break from focusing on our own plans and focus on the God who gives our lives purpose? Dining with the Divine is lifechanging and it is worth the sacrifice of time, and all who accept Jesus’ gift of salvation are made worthy in the eyes of God. My friends, do not miss out on this opportunity. Right now, as you are gathered in a living room, around a dinner table, at a café or in a church classroom, the Triune God is present, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. God invites us daily to sit at his table until one day, when Christ returns in final victory, we will sit at the banquet table with all of the Saints of God.

GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Share where you've seen God at work in your life this week.

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What are your highs and lows for this week?

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The great moments of life are rarely convenient, how do we stay sensitive to those moments? What gets in the way?

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How can our calendars reflect practical statement of faith?

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What are some practical steps that we can take to make more room in our lives for God and for the people of God?

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What was your most impactful take away from the podcast, sermon, or curriculum?

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PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Please go around the group and have each person share a praise for this week and a prayer request/concern.

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CLOSING PRAYER

Have a volunteer lead closing prayer: asking for prayer concerns and lifting up the needs of the group.

DAILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Please answer these during your personal devotional time at the end of the day or do it as a couple or family.

Where have you seen God today? For the children, we say, "what made you happy today?"

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What broke your heart or made you sad today?

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What good thing did you do for someone else today?

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What are you thankful for today?

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