

COMPELLING MEN TO COME TO JESUS

(Part One)

TEXT: Luke 14:15-23

INTRODUCTION: The words of the text were spoken in the house of a chief Pharisee on the Sabbath. They were meant as a rebuke to the Pharisees and other proud Jews who assumed that they were surely among those who would be *“recompensed at the resurrection of the just”* (v. 14). Although the nation Israel had been “bidden” to the great “supper” of God, they had disdained the invitation. The Lord had turned to a small, despised Jewish remnant and finally to the Gentiles to take out *“a people for His name.”*

This parable constitutes both a **warning** to the self-righteous and a **challenge** to true believers to *“compel”* sinners to come to the heavenly banquet that the Father has lavishly prepared. While we dare not use coercion or manipulation in soul-winning, we must not be lacking in fervency, earnestness, zeal, and a sense of urgency. Should we not **work** as if everything depended upon us, but **pray** as if everything depended on God?

OUTLINE: If we would be **compelling** in our **witness**, in inviting sinners to come to Christ, there are several lessons we must learn from this parable.

I. Be Undaunted.

(v. 18 *“And they all with one consent began to make excuse”*)

A. Understand the power of Satan’s lying excuses.

B. Tell it to the Master in prayer.

C. Go after others (John 10:16 *“And other sheep I have...”*)

II. Be Urgent.

(v. 21 *“Go quickly...”*)

A. Because *“all things are now ready”* (v. 17)

B. Because God *“is not willing that any should perish”* (2 Pet. 3:9)

C. Because of the approach of death and the return of Christ (Heb. 9:27; 10:25)

III. Be Untiring.

(v. 23 *“Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them...”*)

A. Be diligent in your search for sinners hiding.

B. Be zealous in your efforts to win them.

C. Remember – you’re not home yet (*“this is not your rest”*)!

CONCLUSION: Let us not be daunted in our efforts to invite others to come to the great gospel feast. We should not be surprised that Satan has deceived the minds of so many that they oppose themselves and refuse the things which belong unto their peace. Most of the Jews invited by the priests and prophets to come to God for centuries will not be at the great Marriage Supper of God. Why? They all said “yes” to God’s **promise** but “no” to God’s **Son**. We cannot compel, but we can be compelling. We cannot persuade, but we can be persuasive. “He will forgive if they only believe.” Shall we not pray and weep over sinners, and woo and warn as if everything depended upon us?