

God Time Day 1: Jesus Invites Everyone



In this series of God Times, we will be looking at the heart behind the church— four qualities that are true of those who are in the body of Christ. This week, we will focus on the fact that we have all been *invited* to be part of God’s family.

Have you ever felt uninvited? Unworthy? Undeserving?

It’s good that our feelings don’t dictate God’s invitation!



Read Romans 15:5-7. Underline anything that stands out to you: *⁵Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with one mind and one voice. ⁷Therefore welcome one another, just as Christ also welcomed you, to the glory of God.*

God Time Day 2: Go to God



There was a woman in the Bible who felt uninvited and unworthy. Through her story, Jesus showed us a lot about who He is and how He welcomes any who will come to Him. Her story also shows us how we can be like Jesus and welcome those whom others reject.



Read Luke 7:37 *And a woman in the town who was a sinner found out that Jesus was reclining at the table in the Pharisee’s house. She brought an alabaster jar of perfume.*

The woman “*was a sinner,*” but her specific sin is never mentioned. We can all identify with her because we are all sinners! Her reputation was harmed, but she was bold and came to Jesus anyway.

What sinful thing have you done that has affected or could affect your reputation?



If you know God, thank Him for His forgiveness. If you don’t know Him, you can ask for His forgiveness right now.

God Time Day 3: Being Invited Requires a Response



Read Luke 7:38 *...[the woman] stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to wash his feet with her tears. She wiped his feet with her hair, kissing them and anointing them with the perfume.*



Circle each action the woman did.



What do these actions tell us about the way the woman felt?

It may seem strange to read that the woman “*stood behind*” Jesus while he was eating at the table. In Bible days, the Jews would have eaten while almost lying down (“reclining,” verse 37). Since their shoes were removed upon entering a house, Jesus would have been in the perfect position for someone to come up behind Him to start washing His feet.

What’s the point? Sandaled feet got very dirty in those days and typically a servant would come to wash them as part of a warm welcome. But in this instance, even though Jesus was in the perfect position to be approached, no servant was sent to do it. But this woman, who wanted to be welcomed, loved, and forgiven, served Jesus.

Being invited into God’s presence requires a response. Either we approach Him, or we don’t. Have you approached God, responding to His invitation for salvation?

If not... talk to one of our staff or ministry leaders today!

If yes, remember, Jesus is inviting you to go further into a relationship with Him. Is He inviting you to start doing something? Is He inviting you to stop doing something for His sake? Is He inviting you to tell someone about Him?



Write Jesus’ invitation here and make a plan to respond.

God Time Day 4: Being Invited Requires a Response (Part 2)



Simon the Pharisee thought that Jesus couldn't be the "real deal" because He didn't try to avoid the sinful woman. But Jesus read Simon's mind and then gave the following reply.



Read Luke 7:44-47

⁴⁴Turning to the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she, with her tears, has washed my feet and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You gave me no kiss, but she hasn't stopped kissing my feet since I came in. ⁴⁶You didn't anoint my head with olive oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume. ⁴⁷Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that's why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little."

Look through the passage and underline each thing the Pharisee didn't do.



What might this say about his heart?

The Pharisee was wrong; he was not showing Jesus honor. Yet, Jesus still came to him, presenting an invitation to come into a relationship with Him; the Pharisee was still invited. The problem was in his response.



Circle the last sentence in the passage.

The "one who is forgiven little" is the one who *feels like* they only need a little forgiveness because they don't sin much. They trust in their own righteousness. When Jesus said this, He was scolding the Pharisee for not being able to see his own sin and then respond appropriately to the Savior. The woman, on the other hand, saw her sin and wanted forgiveness. Her response was one of great love!

Do you identify more with the woman or the Pharisee? Why?



How does this passage challenge you to respond?

God Time Day 5: Don't Come Alone – Bring Others With You!



Jesus once told a story about a wedding banquet. In His story, the guests made excuses not to come. So, the banquet master told his servant to go and invite those whom society rejected—the poor, maimed, lame, and blind. But there was still room for more!



Read Luke 14:23-24

²³Then the master told the servant, "Go out into the highways and hedges and make them come in, so that my house may be filled. ²⁴For I tell you, not one of those people who were invited will enjoy my banquet."

What does the master want the servant to do? Why?



What will happen to those whom the master invited but had made excuses not to come?

There are lessons to be learned here.

One is that we shouldn't make excuses. Though this passage is about salvation, honestly, anytime God invites us to join Him in anything, we should respond positively!



Think of a time when you made an excuse not to participate in God's invitation. What did you learn from that?

Another lesson we can learn from this passage is that since God invites everyone to Him, we should too. We don't have to make it overly complicated – we can start by simply talking to others and being ready to share the hope that is within us.

Learn how to do this at *Mission2Share* training Sunday, August 21. (See p. 24)

