

## Not Interested?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

**Matthew 22:1-14** tells about the marriage supper that the king gave for his son. When the time came the servants were sent to tell the guests that it was time to come for the celebration. Those who were invited would not come as verse three says. Notice that it says "would not come" instead of saying that they could not come. It is the same today as so many people reject the invitation of God. They could come to the Lord except for one thing - they don't want to.

When someone doesn't want to do something, it means that they are not interested in it. Whatever it is has no importance to that person. His priorities are in other things that have more pleasure, or profit, in his judgment. The danger is in casting away a lasting treasure for some temporary pleasure. Many people do it all the time and refuse the invitation of God himself.

Consider the folks in Matthew's account. Some went to merchandise, others went to farms, and I'm

sure that still others found a lot of worldly things that they wanted more than to spend time with the king. In **Luke 14:20** one said, "I married a wife and therefore I cannot come." No matter how foolish it may be, people can, and do, come up with some silly excuse when they don't want to do something. I have heard a lot of them in nearly forty years of ministry.

I feel sorry for the weak people who don't have enough character to say what they really mean.

Few people have I seen who are able to tell what they actually think. Once when visiting a home and trying to get the family to come to church the man started the usual excuses. His wife spoke up and said, "Stop lying to the man, if we take a notion to come to church we'll get up and come. We do everywhere else that we want to go." They didn't come, but I did appreciate her honesty, even if her husband didn't.

How sad that the things that a person gives his life, and time, to here on earth he will try to cast away when facing God. **Isaiah 2:19-20**, "And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his

majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats." Why would they do such a thing? These were the gods that they had devoted their lives to. Yet, when faced with the true God they were afraid of the judgment that was to come.

So many people today are just like the people of long ago, they give their energy and time to that which takes them away from God. Then when they think that it is time to leave this life and to stand before the Lord they develop an interest in God. Why? It is because they finally admit what they have known all along, that the things of this world can't save them. Added to this is the realization that God is real and is serious about salvation and judgment. As someone has said, "Men don't want to live for the Lord here on earth, but they want to live with him in heaven." They want the world here and to go to heaven when this life is over. Can mankind be foolish enough to actually think that God will reward them for ignoring him all their lives? I don't believe that he is interested in such a deal as that.

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**Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI**



THE NEAR-EAST'S BALANCE OF POWER IS OF WORLD-WIDE CONCERN TODAY. EGYPT AND ISRAEL FENCE, DIPLOMATICALLY, EACH HOPING TO GAIN A MORE STRATEGIC POSITION. TO THE NORTH, SYRIA, LEBANON, AND TO THE EAST, JORDAN—NOT TO MENTION OTHER ARAB COALITIONS—ALL WATCH NERVOUSLY, MAKING THEIR OWN ALLIANCES AGAINST THE DAY WHEN TOTAL WAR MAY STILL BREAK OUT...AND SCHOLARS OF ANCIENT HISTORY SMILE RUEFULLY SHAKING THEIR HEADS—NOTHING'S CHANGED IN 2,500 YEARS! THE SAME POLITICAL SITUATIONS, THE SAME COUNTRIES, SAME PLANS!



ISAIAH THE PROPHET (CIRCA 780-700 B.C.), IN TEMPESTUOUS ANCIENT TIMES, PREACHED RELIANCE ON GOD, ADVISING AGAINST POLITICAL ALLIANCE WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. SO SINCERE WAS HE, THAT HE STRIPPED AND, FOR THREE YEARS, WALKED ABOUT BAREFOOTED, WEARING ONLY A LOIN CLOTH TO POINT UP HOW BAD OFF EVERYONE WAS GOING TO BE IF THEY DIDN'T HEED HIS WORDS! BUT THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH WAS IN A VERY DANGEROUS SITUATION....



...IN THE NORTH, SYRIA AND ISRAEL (SEPARATE FROM THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH AND JERUSALEM) HAD FORMED AN ALLIANCE AGAINST THE THREAT OF A TERRIBLE FOE TO THE EAST, ASSYRIA—THEN AT ITS HEIGHT AS A CONQUERING NATION, LOOTING AND DESPOILING ALL KINGDOMS IN ITS PATH TO WORLD POWER! SYRIA AND ISRAEL INTENDED TO ATTACK JUDAH FOR NOT JOINING THEM BUT, BEFORE THEY COULD, THEY WERE CONQUERED BY ASSYRIA, WHOSE KING, SENNACHERIB, THEN FOCUSED ON JERUSALEM, DEMANDING ITS TOTAL SURRENDER! KING HEZEKIAH SOUGHT ISAIAH'S ADVICE—WHEN HE WAS IN TROUBLE, THEN AND THEN ONLY, DID HE TURN TO GOD AND THE PROPHETS—WHEN EVERYTHING WAS FINE, HEZEKIAH DID AS HE DARN WELL PLEASED! ISAIAH TOLD HEZEKIAH TO ACT LIKE A REAL KING, FOR ONCE, AND DEFEY ASSYRIA! A HARD THING TO DO WHEN, ALL AROUND HIM, KINGDOMS WERE TOPPLING LIKE TEN-PINS...SO HEZEKIAH STRIPPED HIS TREASURY OF ITS GOLD AND SILVER TO GIVE TO SENNACHERIB, HOPING HE'D GO AWAY! AT THIS TIME, EGYPT TO THE SOUTHWEST, FEARING FOR ITS OWN SAFETY, GOT INTO THE FIGHT AND, EVEN AS ISAIAH SHOUTED DEFIANCE FROM JERUSALEM'S WALLS, SENNACHERIB, WITH NEWS OF A SERIOUS REVOLT IN HIS OWN COUNTRY, HIS ARMY DECIMATED BY SOME SUDDEN PLAGUE OF ILLNESS WHICH KILLED THOUSANDS OF HIS TROOPS OVERNIGHT, LEFT FOR HOME! INSTEAD OF GOING TO THE TEMPLE TO THANK GOD, THE PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM CELEBRATED IN A SERIES OF WILD ORGIES! ISAIAH'S WORDS FAIRLY DRIPPED SARCASM, AS HE WATCHED... "EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY," SAID HE, "FOR TOMORROW," CAME HIS DIRE PREDICTION, "WE DIE!" ISAIAH SAW WHAT THE FUTURE HELD FOR A PEOPLE WHO TURNED TO RIOTOUS REVELS AT THE SLIGHTEST EXCUSE—AND HE WAS RIGHT! IN LESS THAN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, NEBUCHADNEZZAR WAS TO COME OUT OF THE EAST AND END FOREVER "THE POWER AND THE GLORY THAT WAS JERUSALEM."

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