

MANY ARE CALLED BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN

2014

This is a study on the difference between being “called” and being “chosen”, and chosen for what?

Mt 22:14 For many are called, but few [are] chosen. Chosen for what? What is required to be “chosen” and what does being “called” mean; called for what? These questions may be in the minds of many of our “babes in Christ”. This is a very good question and deserves to be answered by the words of God. This study is meant to answer these questions.

Strong’s Concordance says the original Greek word (for called) relates to a wedding feast and/or celebration. Jesus used this word in a parable.

Mt.25:1 ¶ Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

(they were not taking their responsibility, of being called, seriously at all)

4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

(It is important that the timing for his arrival is in the darkness of midnight, signifying that when he comes the second time, not everyone will see him, as you may have heard).

7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

(All ten had been invited (called) but half were not being diligent (faithful).

8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

(we all suffer the consequence of our own attitudes, none can answer for our negligence)

9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

(those who took their spiritual life seriously were rewarded)

11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

(we could wait too long to be able to change)

13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

This may offer more questions than answers. Who are the “virgins” and who are getting married?. It is clear that the virgins are being called (invited) to a wedding of their master (Jesus). When we read further we find that Jesus’ main point is to be ready and

watching (ourselves) when the time comes for us to be chosen, or not chosen. So the “groom” is coming but there is no mention of a bride being already present. He is “choosing” a group of virgins (converted Christians, who are watching) as acceptable guests.

Lu 12:35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocks, they may open unto him immediately.

As we see in this passage Jesus is speaking of guests who receive the groom after the wedding takes place to join in the celebration. So neither the chosen virgins or the second chosen group are actually the bride as we will see in the next verses.

37 Blessed are those “servants“, whom the lord when he comes shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

39 And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.

40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

Regardless of who the bride is, the topic here is to be ready when Jesus looks for those whom he is pleased to “choose” to give eternal life to.

Rev 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; (since these are “all nations”, not labeled Israelites, they must be Gentiles).

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

13 ¶ And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

The above verses describes those who are called and chosen to be servants in a particular time period where there is a “temple“. Why is this important? Because, there is no

temple in the last age where the new city of Jerusalem comes down out of heaven in Rev 21. Then when is this time? Very simple, it is in the age that Ezekiel writes about in the last eight chapters of his book, where God has Israel build a city for him (Christ) to dwell in. This city does have a “Temple” in it.

Rev. chapter 21 introduces us to the bride. This is a fulfillment that takes place at the very end of our civilization as we know it. This is given to us in “Prolepsis”, which means a future event is told as if it has already happened. Many prophecies are written in Prolepsis. Once God decides to do something he thinks of it as already being accomplished.

Rev 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

1 ¶ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Notice this is not referring to a bride but to a son (a physical family). Also regardless of what we have heard, there is no mention of people going to heaven. Instead we read in Rev:19 all about the new city of Jerusalem coming down from heaven to earth, and the earth being made new.

9 ¶ And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

Then read on down in Rev 21 for verses that describe the new city of Jerusalem and all it includes. These are visions that Christ showed to John of the future of His plan from the beginning of our age to beyond throughout the seven ages of mankind..

Now that we have gone through this we will go back and discuss what we have to do to be called and chosen. On the day of Pentecost, one of God's special Holy days, a multitude of peoples, mostly Israelites (not Jews only) but from all the twelve tribes born from Jacob, were in Jerusalem celebrating at the Temple. They witnessed an unusual display of God's power on a select few who spoke in a variety of languages even though they were all from the same location. We read about this in the book of Acts beginning in chapter 2. Where Peter, an apostle, was asked a question:

37 ¶ Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Now some of you may not fully understand how to follow Peter's answer so we'll go through it.

1. REPENT means to determine what you have been doing that violates your conscious but more importantly violates God's word, (especially His instructions.) Then you command your willpower, with God's help, not to do those things any more. You will not always know what is right or wrong in certain circumstances. The biggest mistake is to depend on other peoples spiritual advice without checking out their conduct and knowledge of Bible subjects. This may surprise you, but one of the most damaging mistakes is to start attending a church before you do some serious studying of the Bible on your own. Listen to what Paul warns his students:

2Cor 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

2. PRAYER and. READING THE BIBLE is your best tool against the power of Satan and his demons. Expect to fight a war against society, your own human nature (bad habits), as well as wicked spirits. It is very difficult to make so many changes in your life; it may take more time than you think. That is why few are chosen, they give up too soon.

Satan will use every method available to discourage you. Keep the goal of salvation in mind constantly. You may find that along with prayer fasting gives you a more direct line to God's power. One of the worst things you can do is start going to church before you know what God's will is. You are too inexperienced to know who teaches truth or lies.

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3.STUDY TO PLEASE GOD and to determine what pleases Him or what He hates. We all should know God hates sin, so we need to know what sin is.

Ro 5:13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.hey can be found in Gen transgression of the law.

1Jo 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

A newly "called" person should read how the Bible describes sin. Many churches teach that the old Testament has been discarded by Jesus but this is one of Satan's lies. There was no New Test. during the time of Jesus or the time of the apostles. The only things discarded in the Old Test. was the sacrificial laws, because Jesus took the place of the sacrificial lambs. Jesus became our high priest and mediator so there is no need for priests and Temple laws. No need to tithe to support the temple and priesthood. as was required back then. The law of circumcism was spiritualized away. But no where do we read where God's laws are done away. A list of the ten commandments are first found in Exodus 20. But they were known long before Moses. Abraham was blessed because he kept God's laws. Jesus said he did not come to do away with the laws of his father.

Mat.5:17 ¶ Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. (There is so much to be fulfilled yet)

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. (heaven and earth have not passed away yet).

19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus even changed the physical letter of the laws to keeping them spiritually, i.e. not only can a person murder his enemies he is forbidden to hate them. Not only can a person steal he is not to lust for things that belong to another person, etc. So now if a person is lead by the holy spirit he will not desire to break even the spirit of the law.

4. GROW TO LOVE GOD AND HIS WORD. The more a “called” person resists evil, the stronger and more faithful to God he becomes, the easier it becomes for him to set an example of love to all those around him. You will treat trials and tests as temporary knowing they make you stronger and shows God you trust Him. You will find God hearing and answering your prayers, healing your body and supplying all your needs. You will find God doesn’t always give you what you want but manages to give you more of what you really need. But realize “All good things come from God!” You might even be one of the “chosen”! God pleads with us all “Choose death or choose life”. He wants us to choose eternal life. That is His plan for as many as will accept it. He calls so many, but it is up to them to be chosen, alas many decide they want things of this life instead. Our goal should be to be “chosen”, not just “called” so we will make it into God’s family. Jesus explains who are called, and who are not chosen in Mat. 25:1-46.