They Made Light Of It

Intro: Our text is found in Mat. 22:5 “But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise” In this parable, Mat. 22:1-14, the men of the parable treated lightly the invitation given by the King. It indicates that their sense of values was wrong. There are some things that can be considered lightly (sports, money, things of this life, etc.), but others are of such great importance that we should never make light of them. In this sermon we shall observe some things that must never be considered lightly.

I. DO NOT TREAT YOURSELF AS UNIMPORTANT.

A. We are made in the image of God; Gen. 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”

B. David’s appraisal of man; Psa. 8:5-6 “For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. 6Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:”

C. Man has a soul; Mat. 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

1. It cannot be killed by man; Mat. 10:28 “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

2. It lives on after death.

3. It must be fed on the spiritual; Psa. 42:1-2 “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. 2My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?”

4. It cannot be fed on things put in barns, material things; Luke 12:13-21

5. It can be purified by obedience to God; 1 Pet. 1:22 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:”

6. It is our most priceless possession; Mat. 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

D. Christ died for man.

1. 1 Pet. 2:24 “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”

2. 1 Pet. 3:18 “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the spirit:”

E. Those who fail to put God first and neglect their souls make light of themselves.
II. DO NOT MAKE LIGHT OF YOUR CONSCIENCE.
   A. It must not be violated.
      1. Rom. 14:23 “And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”
      2. To go against what you believe to be right is sin.
   B. The conscience when continually violated can be seared; 1 Tim. 4:2 “Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”
   C. When considered lightly its voice can be silenced.
      1. When the conscience is blunted one can engage with ease in things which would have brought a sense of guilt before.
      2. The gospel can trouble the heart of the sinner until it is hardened by constant rejection of Christ and then the voice of conscience is hushed.
      3. We must be very careful that this does not happen to us and respect our conscience always.

III. DO NOT CONSIDER LIGHTLY YOUR INFLUENCE.
   A. Guard it as you would a precious jewel; 1 Tim. 4:12 “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
   B. To become a stumbling block to someone else is tragic.
      1. To the one led astray.
      2. To the one who causes the other to stumble; Mat. 18:6-7 “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!”
      3. We all touch the lives of others.
         a. Rom. 14:7 “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.”
         b. Great is the influence of one member of the family over the other members of the family.
            (1) 1 Pet. 3:1 “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;”
            (2) 2 Tim. 1:5 “When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”
      4. We influence those about us now and that influence will live on after death; Heb. 11:4 “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.”
IV. DO NOT MAKE LIGHT OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
   A. You have the responsibility of making decisions.
   B. Pilate thought he could avoid deciding the question, “What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?”
      1. Mat. 27:22 “Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.”
      2. He tried to wash his hands of the responsibility; Mat. 27:24 “When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.”
      3. This question must be decided by all.
      4. We are for or against Christ; Mat. 12:30 “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”
   C. The Christian must not consider lightly his responsibility.
      1. To glorify God; Mat. 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
      2. To win souls; Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
      3. To love brethren.
         a. John 13:35 “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”
         b. 1 John 4:20-21 “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.”

V. WE MUST NOT CONSIDER LIGHTLY THE WORD OF GOD.
   A. It is able to save our souls.
      1. Rom. 1:16-17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
      2. Jam. 1:21 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
   B. We will be judged by it in the judgment.
      1. John 12:48-50 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”
      2. Rev. 20:12 “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”
C. God pronounced a curse on those who would change it.
   1. Deu. 4:2 “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish o{ught} from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”
   2. Pro. 30:6 “Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”
   3. Gal. 1:6-9 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”
   4. Rev. 22:18-19 “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

D. To think we can be saved without doing what God has said is to make light of His will. We must respect all that God has said.
   1. Mat. 4:4 “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”
   2. Acts 20:20, 27 “And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,...”

VI. WE MUST NOT TREAT CHRIST LIGHTLY.
A. He is the long looked for Messiah.
B. His miracles proved His divine Sonship,
   1. John 3:2 “The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.”
   2. John 20:30-31 “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”
C. He is our Savior.
   1. Mat. 1:21 “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”
   2. Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
   3. Acts 13:23 “Of this man’s seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:”
D. Christ is coming again.
   1. John 14:1-3 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told
you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I
will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be
also.”

2. Acts 1:11 “Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into
heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come
in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

E. When He comes again He will judge the world.
1. Acts 17:31 “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the
world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath
given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”
2. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that
every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath
done, whether it be good or bad.”

VII. WE MUST NOT TREAT HIS PRECIOUS INVITATION LIGHTLY.
A. Mat. 11:28 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”
1. Consider who it is that invites.
2. Consider how much we need Him.
3. Do not forget; Heb. 7:25 “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the
uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession
for them.”

B. Rev. 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the
doors, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”
1. This is to every wayward Christian and to every alien sinner.
2. He is knocking at your heart now.
3. How long will you keep Him waiting?
4. Illustration: Suppose you knocked at the door of someone you
loved. It is a bitter cold day outside. He sees and hears you, but
shakes his head and will not let you in. Will you ever knock at his
door again? Yet in spite of your rejection of Christ and your
unwillingness to let Him in, He continues to knock and ask to come
in. Why? He loves us and wants to save us from sin and eternal
punishment.

Conclusion: Consider the tragedy of rejecting Christ, of losing your soul
and the punishment of those who make light of Christ and His precious
invitation.