Three Great Invitations

Intro: As we go through life, we will receive many invitations of various sorts and kinds. We will accept many of them, and, likewise, we will reject or decline many of them. However, there are no invitations more important that the three we want to discuss today. As we discuss them, we each need to ask if we have accepted or rejected these invitations made by Christ.

I. COME UNTO ME.
   A. Mat. 11:28-30 “28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
   B. This is a universal invite:
      1. Rev. 22:17 “17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”
      2. God’s grace is available to all:
         a. Tit. 2:11 “11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,”
         b. Heb. 2:9 “9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”
   C. We are the ones who must accept the invitation.
      1. What you do with it is your decision, but do not refuse the invitation to investigate Him.
      2. We need to reason together; Isa. 1:18 “18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”
      3. Christ is the only way; Acts 4:12 “12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
      4. It will be His Word that judges us; John 12:48 “48 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.”

II. COME AFTER ME.
   A. Mat. 16:24-26 “24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 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?”
   B. This is becoming His disciples.
      1. Mat. 28:19-20 “19 Go ye therefore, and teach [make disciples—NKJV, ASV] all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 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.”
      2. A disciple is one who learns and follows.
   C. Discipleship involves self-denial.
      1. Phi. 3:7-8 “7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,”
      2. We are no longer our own; 1 Cor. 6:19-20 “19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”
3. We live different from the world; Rom. 12:1-2 “1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

4. We are to Walk worthy of the calling we have; Eph. 4:1 “1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation [calling—NKJV, ASV] wherewith ye are called,”

5. Though the price of discipleship is high, the prize of salvation is worth it.

III. COME, YE BLESSED OF MY FATHER.

A. Mat. 25:34 “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:”

B. There is a place prepared for us.

1. This beautiful place of heaven.

2. We will be blessed.
   a. Rev. 14:13 “And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”
   b. It is a place where we will be comforted as Lazarus; Luke 16:25 “But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.”

3. It is a place where we will forever be with God; 1 Tha. 4:17 “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

Conclusion: The great question today is: what will you do with these three great invitations made by Christ? While all might desire to accept that last invitation, it will only be extended to those who accept the first two. Have you accepted the first two so you can receive that third? If not, accept them today.