

Luke 14:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

Analysis

The summons goes out: 'And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.' The host 'sent his servant' (ἀπέστειλεν τὸν δοῦλον αὐτοῦ, apestileen ton doulon autou) with the message 'Come; for all things are now ready' (Ἐρχεσθε, ὅτι ἥδη ἔτοιμά ἔστιν, Erchesthe, hoti ēdē hetoima estin). The verb 'come' (Ἐρχεσθε, Erchesthe) is imperative—this is command, not mere suggestion. The phrase 'all things are now ready' emphasizes completion and urgency. Nothing remains to be prepared; the feast awaits only the guests. This pictures Christ's finished work—salvation is complete, the way is open, all that remains is for sinners to come.

Historical Context

The servant represents prophets, apostles, and gospel preachers who announce salvation's availability. John the Baptist proclaimed 'the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matthew 3:2). Jesus declared 'the time is fulfilled' (Mark 1:15). Apostolic preaching emphasized 'now is the day of salvation' (2 Corinthians 6:2). The parable's urgency counters the dangerous attitude 'there's plenty of time to respond later.' Death or Christ's return may come unexpectedly, making delay deadly. The invitation's specificity—to them that were bidden—indicates that gospel hearing creates responsibility. Those who hear and refuse face stricter judgment than those who never heard (Luke 12:47-48, Matthew 11:20-24).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does 'all things are now ready' relate to Christ's finished work on the cross?
2. What does the urgency of 'come now' teach about the danger of delaying response to the gospel?
3. How should gospel preachers communicate both invitation (God's gracious call) and urgency (the necessity of immediate response)?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀπέστειλεν	τὸν	δοῦλον	αὐτοῦ	τῇ	ῷρᾳ	τοῦ	δείπνου
And	sent		servant		time		at supper	
G2532	G649		G1401		G5610		G1173	
εἰπεῖν	τοῖς	κεκλημένοις		Ἐρχεσθε	ὅτι	ἡδη	ἔτοιμά	
to say	G3588	to them that were bidden		Come	for	now	ready	
G2036		G2564		G2064	G3754	G2235	G2092	
ἐστιν	πάντα							
are	all things							
G2076	G3956							

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