

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, apesteilen ton doulon autou) with the message 'Come; for all things are now ready' (Ἔρχεσθε, ὅτι ἤδη ἔτοιμά ἐστιν, Erchesthe, hoti ēdē hetoima estin). The verb 'come' (Ἔρχεσθε, 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	ᾧρᾳ	τοῦ	δείπνου
And G2532	sent G649	G3588	servant G1401	G846	G3588	time G5610	G3588	at supper G1173
εἰπεῖν	τοῖς	κεκλημένοις	Ἔρχεσθε	ὅτι	ἤδη	ἔτοιμά		
to say G2036	G3588	to them that were bidden G2564	Come G2064	for G3754	now G2235	ready G2092		
ἐστὶν	πάντα							
are G2076	all things G3956							