

Matthew 22:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

Analysis

Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage (πορεύεσθε οὖν ἐπὶ τὰς διεξόδους τῶν ὁδῶν, καὶ ὅσους ἐὰν εὕρητε καλέσατε εἰς τοὺς γάμους)—The diexodous tōn hodōn (literally 'the thoroughfares of the roads'—crossroads, exits, highways) represents places where Gentiles and outcasts gather, outside the respectable city. The command hosous ean heurēte ('as many as you find') is strikingly inclusive—no screening, no prerequisites, no ethnic or moral qualifications.

This is the Great Commission in parable form (28:19-20): 'Go into all the world.' The kalesate (bid/call/invite) is the same verb used for the original guests—the gospel invitation is identical, but the audience shifts from covenant insiders to Gentile outsiders. Romans 9-11 provides Paul's theological reflection on this transition.

Historical Context

The 'highways' or crossroads were where the marginal people gathered—day laborers seeking work, beggars, travelers, those without social status. In Jewish thinking, this would include tax collectors, sinners, Samaritans, and Gentiles. Jesus's ministry already demonstrated this pattern: 'I came not to call the righteous, but sinners' (9:13).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does the shift from 'invited guests' to 'whoever you find' reveal about the nature of grace and election?
2. How should the church's evangelistic strategy reflect the 'highways' principle —going to outsiders rather than expecting them to come to us?
3. Who are the 'highway people' in your context that the gospel must actively reach, rather than passively wait for them to attend church?

Interlinear Text

πορεύεσθε οὖν ἐπὶ τὰς διεξόδους τῶν ὁδῶν καὶ
Go ye therefore into the highways and
G4198 G3767 G1909 G1327 G3588 G3598 G2532

ὅσους ἀνεύρητε καλέσατε εἰς τοὺς γάμους
as many as ye shall find bid to the marriage
G3745 G302 G2147 G2564 G1519 G3588 G1062

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