

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 εὑρήτε 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	G3588	the highways	G3588	G3598	and
G4198	G3767	G1909		G1327			G2532
ὅσους	ἂν	εὑρήτε	καλέσατε	εἰς	τοὺς	γάμους	
as many as	G302	ye shall find	bid	to	G3588	the marriage	
G3745		G2147	G2564	G1519		G1062	

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