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Subject: Stop and think about life.

“Consider your ways” (Haggai 1:5)

“For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”  
(James 4:14)

Life is short so how sensible it would be to consider your ways because at the end of life all that matters, “What think ye of Christ?” (Matt 22:42)

The message of the Bible is from heaven, from God, and can make a difference to life.

“How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?” (Hebrews 2:3)

### **Reading: Matthew 22v1-14**

The reading was a parable, this is a story of everyday events with a spiritual meaning, a lesson from heaven. We want to use this parable to explain the verse from Hebrews.

“So great salvation” - v4 “All things are ready” - The invitation went out from the King.

All that was required by those invited was to come to the marriage.

The invitation from heaven that comes to us is that of salvation. God sends the invite to men and women to come.

The message is so great because of who gives the invitation. It is not from a human leader but from God Himself. God who created and upholds all things.

“In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind” (Job 12:10)

“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” (Isaiah 1:18)

“Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28)

The message is so great because of the scope of it. To each and everyone – None excluded, none too rich, too poor, too old or too young.

“Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21)

The message is so great because of the uniqueness of the message – The only way to heaven, the only way back to God, the only way to know peace.

In our cities there are many suggestions as to how to get to heaven, the Bible says, “Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)

The message is so great because of the content of it. “God is love” - It led Him to give His only Son to bare the punishment due to you and me. On calvary He hung in your place and mine. “For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16)

The gospel contains the message of the best love for you and me but also contains a warning.

“How shall we escape” - v7 The murderers are destroyed - v13 “Bind him and take him away”, the man could not come in his own way.

The Bible warns of coming judgment.

“Be not deceived, God is not mocked, whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7)

God is holy and righteous and cannot tolerate sin – He takes note of our sin and cannot overlook it.

“It is appointed unto men once to die but after this the judgment” (Heb 9:27)

Death is but a door into eternity, a step to meet God.

“Prepare to meet thy God” (Amos 4:12). Are you prepared?

It is impossible to escape. When we die we will meet God. On the cross the punishment was paid and by trusting in Him we will be saved.

We can be assured of a place in heaven.

“God loved us and gave His Son to be the Saviour” (1 John 4:9)

“Certain fearful looking for of judgment” (Heb 10:27)

“Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord” (Rom 12:19)

Judgment will be meted out on sin.

**“If we neglect”** - v3 They would not come – v5 They made light of it, they were taken up with possessions and business. They did not expect judgment, they may have thought many years lay ahead.

**“Behold now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation”** (2 Corinthians 6:2)

Just now you have the opportunity to accept the invitation.

If you repent, God will forgive, He will count you as one of His sons.

Tomorrow is not guaranteed. **“Ye know not what shall be on the morrow”** (James 4:14)

Do not neglect so great salvation.

**“Christ died for our sins”** (1 Cor 15:3)

If you reject the offer He gives you will be responsible for your own sins.