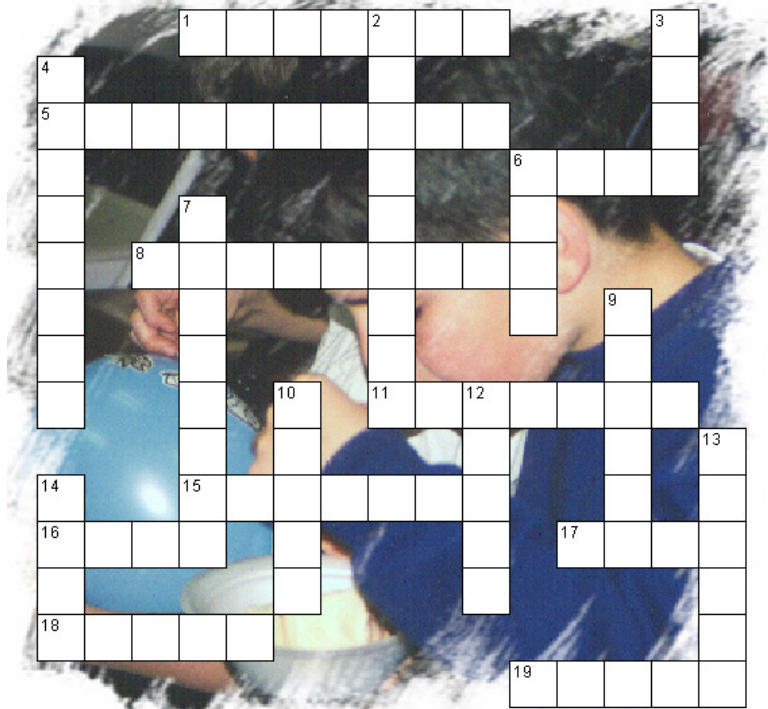


Crossword Puzzle



Across

Down

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. When the man saw that his invitation was _____ by so many... | 2. So great a _____. |
| 5. ...we have been _____ to God... | 3. We can receive God as _____. |
| 6. ...poor, crippled, blind and _____. | 4. ...poor, _____, blind and lame... |
| 8. The poor, crippled, blind and lame are those who see their real _____. | 6. One man needed to examine his _____. |
| 11. How shall we escape if we _____. | 7. Our sins have been _____. |
| 15. One man needed to _____ his land. | 9. One by one, each man gave his _____. |
| 16. One man needed to test his _____. | 10. He invited many to come to his _____. |
| 17. It is easy for man to believe that he is whole, that he is _____. | 12. So _____ a salvation. |
| 18. Go out to the _____ and hedges... | 13. The man wanted his house to be _____. |
| 19. ...poor, crippled, _____ and lame... | 14. _____, crippled, blind and lame... |



Parent's Initials:

The Ministry of the Lord Jesus

- Lesson Twenty -

Gospel Presentation (1) – God’s Invitation and Man’s Excuses for Refusing Salvation

I. Overview.

In the Gospel of Luke is a story which shows us how God’s salvation has been prepared for us. The story likens God’s salvation to a great dinner which has been prepared and to which we have been lovingly invited.



God’s salvation is like a rich feast.

In the book of Hebrews we can see how highly God regards the salvation He has prepared for man – it calls it “so great a salvation.”

Hebrews also warns us not to neglect this great salvation. Unfortunately, even though God has prepared such a great salvation for man and has invited all men to participate, many men neglect God’s salvation. Each one who neglects or rejects God’s salvation provides his own excuse. Nevertheless, God is still determined to find those who will not think so highly of themselves. These ones will accept and respond to God’s wonderfully rich salvation in Christ.

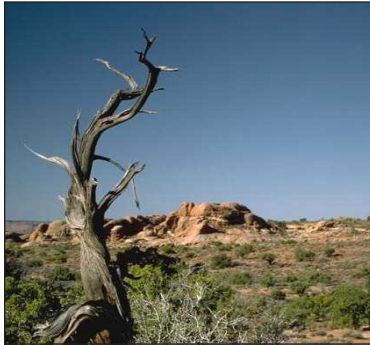
II. Memory Verse.

“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?”

(Heb. 2:3)

III. Lesson.

The story in the Gospel of Luke tells of a wealthy man who prepared a great dinner. He invited many to come to his feast. However, one by one, each man gave his excuse. One had just bought some land and said that he needed to go examine it. Another indicated that he had just bought five yoke of oxen and needed to test them. Yet another said that he could not come because he had just been married.



*Man often thinks he is whole,
when he actually is poor,
crippled, blind and lame.*

God Extends His Invitation

When the man saw that his invitation had been refused by so many, he told his slaves to go out to the streets and invite the poor, crippled, blind and lame ones. The slaves did so and brought many in, but there was still room. He commanded his slaves to go out again to the roads and hedges and compel more people to come so that his house would be filled.

So many people refuse God's salvation because they don't realize how desperately they need it. It is easy for man to believe that he is whole, that he is well. Because man often feels this way, he believes that the common things of life, such as a piece of land, some oxen, or a new wife, are more important than God's salvation. Therefore many make excuses.

In this story, the poor, crippled, blind and lame signify those who see their real condition. Because of the fall of man, we are all poor (not rich in God's life), crippled (not able to live and walk properly), blind (unable to see the things of God) and lame (injured by Satan). If we see that this is our real condi-

tion, we will gladly accept God's salvation. God desires that we would all feast on Christ and what He has accomplished for us. We have a wonderful salvation in Christ – our sins have been forgiven, we have been reconciled to God and to our fellow man, and we have been delivered from eternal punishment. Furthermore, we can receive God as life and be filled with Him and be restored in our humanity.

We truly should highly esteem and not neglect such a great salvation. We should ask God to reveal to us what our true condition is. When we see that we are actually the poor, crippled, blind and lame, we will gladly accept God's wonderful salvation.

--- Questions for Discussion ---

1. Why did many refuse to come to the dinner?

2. How does the book of Hebrews describe God's salvation?

3. What kind of people accepted the invitation?

4. Who are the poor, crippled, blind and lame ones?

