

Sermon Notes

“To be rather than to seem”

My church is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes,
if I am generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship,
if I invite and bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love,
of fearlessness and faith, a church with a noble spirit, if I,
who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of Almighty God,

I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all things that I want
my church to be.

INSPIRATION: DIVERSITY OF WORSHIP EXPERIENCES



God deserves our worship because His love is endless, His generosity limitless, and His grace boundless. In worship God breaks through our shell of self-importance to embrace the frightened child hiding inside wanting to come home. Inspiration is the breath of the Spirit of God in our soul.

*“Were not our **hearts burning** within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” Luke 24:32*

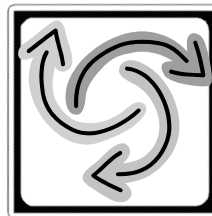
INVEST: THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF COMMITMENT



To “believe” in something is to give your whole heart to it. Everything is centered on achieving the new kind of life Jesus opened up to us. Going deeper with God involves open up to Him and His followers. Growing spiritually requires a commitment to personally focused time and regular community times engaging the Bible, worshipping in song, prayer and conversation.

*“For where your **treasure** is, there your heart will be also.” Luke 12:34*

INVITATION: BECOME A CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIAN



People are always more encouraged and inspired when we share how God’s grace helped us in weakness than when we brag about our strengths.

*“Christ’s love **compels** us, because we are **convinced** that one died for all.” 2 Corinthians 5:14*

Matthew 22:1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

The human race is divided into two classes--those who go ahead and do something, and those who sit still and inquire,

“Why wasn't it done the other way?” Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.