

## Matthew 22:1-14 Lesson 5 - Many Are Called but Few Are Chosen

### Matthew 22:14 in its context

1. One very clear connection jumps out immediately: the word "called" in verse 14 is the same Greek word (the adjective form) of the verb "invited" in verses 3-4, 8-9. So that connection is very clear: many are *invited*, just as many were *invited* in this parable.
2. Verse 14 acts as a concluding statement. In the context, who is it about? The most immediate answer is the man who was just kicked out of the banquet (vv.11-14). But this could also include those who were initially invited but refused to come and were destroyed (vv.3-7). It's probably a concluding statement about all of those who were "invited" in the parable.
3. So the parable shows that many are invited; but who are the few who are chosen? The parable ends up dividing people into two categories: those who end up at the banquet, and those who end up in destruction. So the most obvious answer is that those who did not end up at the banquet were not chosen. They were part of the "many" who were invited, but they were apparently not chosen so they ended up in destruction.
4. Who made this "choice"? The king is the person in the parable with the authority: he does the inviting, he does the separating and judging; he sends the destroyers. He did the inviting, so it's quite obvious that He does the choosing.
5. Does verse 14 have some narrow application to Jesus' time, or to a particular group like the Jewish leaders, or does it extend to our time as well? We've seen that the parable itself extends into the church age, with the gospel preached broadly to all men after the Jews rejected the coming of the Messiah. This makes it very likely that the conclusion in verse 14 is true of salvation in general: many are invited but few are chosen.
6. So the conclusion seems to mean that God's invitation to salvation is very broad (many are invited), but there is a smaller group that is chosen by God and ends up in the kingdom (few are chosen).
7. Nothing in this parable gives details about the choice, other than the chooser (the king) and the result (inclusion in the kingdom).

## Calling, Choosing, and Election: A New Testament Overview

### Key questions:

- Is God's "call" used in one sense or more than one?
- Is God's "choice" used in one sense or more than one?
- Who does God call/choose?
- What are the bases for the call/choice?
- For what does God call/choose people?
- How does the Bible apply the doctrine of God's call/choice? What are the God-given applications for Christians and non-Christians today?

### ***Kaleō - to call***

Dictionary: To call someone; to name someone; to request someone's presence (invite); to authoritatively summon; or to choose for receipt of a special benefit or experience.

140 total uses in the New Testament

*Kaleō* is used four times in the parable in Matthew 22 for the invitation to the banquet (translated "invited" in the NASB). It is also used nine times in the parable of the dinner in Luke 14.

#### Sample non-salvation uses:

Matthew 1:21 She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus

Matthew 4:21 He saw James and John mending their nets; and He called them

Acts 4:18 And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach

Hebrews 5:4 And no one takes the honor [high priesthood] to himself, but receives it when he is called by God

#### Key uses related to salvation:

Luke 5:32 "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Romans 8:29-30 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Romans 9:24 *even* us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

I Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

I Corinthians 7:20-24 Each man must remain in that condition in which he was called. <sup>21</sup> Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that. <sup>22</sup> For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave. <sup>23</sup> You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. <sup>24</sup> Brethren, each one is to remain with God in that *condition* in which he was called.

Gal. 1:6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

Gal. 1:15-16 But when God, who had set me apart *even* from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles...

Ephesians 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling [*klēsis*, see below] with which you have been called.

I Thes. 2:12 so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

I Thes. 5:24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

II Thes. 2:14 It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Tim. 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

II Tim. 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling [*klēsis*, see below], not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

Hebrews 9:15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were *committed* under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

I Peter 1:15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;

I Peter 2:9 But you are A CHOSEN [*eklektos*, see below] RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

I Peter 3:9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

I Pet. 5:10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.

II Pet. 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

Revelation 19:9 Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

**Noun: *Klēsis* - a calling**

Dictionary: an invitation to experience special privilege and responsibility; or a position that one holds

11 total uses in the New Testament

Key uses related to salvation:

Romans 11:29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

I Corinthians 1:26-27

Ephesians 4:1 (see above)

Philippians 3:14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

II Thes. 1:11 To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling.

II Timothy 1:9 (see above)

Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;

II Peter 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing [*eklogē*, see below] you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

**Adjective: *Klētōs* - called**

Dictionary: pertaining to being invited

10 total uses in the New Testament

This is the word used in Matthew 22:14 *many are called*. It is the adjective form of the word translated "invited" throughout the passage. So we can say "called" in verse 14 is the same word as the word "invited" earlier in the passage.

Sample non-salvation uses:

Romans 1:1 called as an apostle

Key uses related to salvation:

Romans 1:6-7 among whom [the Gentiles] you also are the called of Jesus Christ; to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

I Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling

I Corinthians 1:23-24 we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Jude 1 Jude ... to those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ

Revelation 17:14 "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him *are the called* and chosen [*eklektos*, see below] and faithful."

### ***Proskaleō - to call to (oneself)***

Dictionary: to call someone to be present; to call in a legal or official sense (summon)

29 total uses in the New Testament, usually in the gospels for Jesus summoning the crowds, the disciples, or others to come to Him. For example, Matt. 18:2 He called a child to Himself and set him before them.

Key uses related to salvation:

Acts 2:38-39 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.<sup>39</sup> "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

### ***Eklegō - to choose***

Dictionary: to pick out someone or something (choose for oneself); to make a choice in accordance with significant preference (select for oneself)

22 total uses in the New Testament

Sample non-salvation uses:

Luke 6:13 He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them.

Luke 9:35 the Father called Jesus "My Chosen One"

Luke 10:42 Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her

Luke 14:7 they had been picking out the places of honor at the table

Acts 1:24 show which one of these two You have chosen

Acts 13:17 The God of this people Israel chose our Fathers

Key uses related to salvation:

Mark 13:20 Unless the Lord had shortened *those* days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect [*eklektos*, see below], whom He chose, He shortened the days.

John 15:16, 19 You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you... If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

I Cor. 1:27-28 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are.

Ephesians 1:4 He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

**Adjective: *Eklektos - chosen***

Dictionary: selected, chosen; distinguished; or considered best (choice, excellent)

22 total uses in the New Testament. This is the word used in Matthew 22:14 few are chosen.

Sample non-salvation uses:

Luke 23:35 Jesus is called God's "Chosen One"

I Timothy 5:21 refers to "chosen angels"

Key uses related to salvation:

Matthew 24:22, 24, 31 for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short ... false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect ... He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect.

Luke 18:7 Now will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night?

Romans 8:33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect?

Colossians 3:12 So as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on...

II Timothy 2:10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus *and* with *it* eternal glory.

I Peter 1:1-2 Peter, to those ... who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood.

I Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellences of Him who called [*kaleō*] you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Revelation 17:14 Those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.

**Noun: *Eklogē - choice***

Dictionary: a special choice, selection, election; or that which is chosen

7 total uses in the New Testament

Sample non-salvation uses:

Saul was "a chosen instrument" of God to take the gospel to the Gentiles and kings and sons of Israel (Acts 9:15).

Key uses related to salvation:

Romans 9:11-12 for though *the twins* were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to *His choice* would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger."

Romans 11:5, 7 there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to *God's* gracious choice.... What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened;

Romans 11:28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of *God's choice* they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;

I Thes. 1:4 We give thanks to God always for you ... knowing, brethren beloved by God, His *choice* of you; for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

II Peter 1:10 (see above)

### ***Haireō***

Dictionary: to choose

3 total uses in the New Testament

Key uses related to salvation:

II Thes. 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

### ***Tithēmi***

Dictionary: This is a word used a hundred times in the NT with very broad meaning; it has a specific sense that means "to cause to undergo a change in experience/condition; to consign" which is used in a couple of salvation-related passages:

I Peter 2:8 they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed.

I Thessalonians 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ

### ***Tassō***

Dictionary: to bring about an order of things by arranging (arrange, put in place); or to give instructions as to what must be done (fix, determine, appoint)

8 total uses in the New Testament

Sample non-salvation uses:

Matt. 28:16 The eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated.

Acts 22:10 Go on into Damascus, and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do.

Romans 13:1 These is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

Key uses related to salvation:

Acts 13:48 When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.