

# The Privelege

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Let's suppose that all the Christians of this age are gathered into one big, huge auditorium. Every nation is there and not one Christian that is alive today is missing. All of a sudden the Lord walks in. He says to us that before He comes to take us home, He wanted to show us something very dear to His heart. Behind Him on the platform is a huge movie screen so that all may see. On His cue, He directs our attention to it and a picture of the earth rotating on it's axis comes up on the screen.

He says, "This is that which I love. I created it and love every person in it; so much that I sent my only Son into it to die for their sins. I don't want to see any of them perish." Then the screen begins to flash photos in groups of 100 people every second. The Lord says that He is desirous that they would know Him, but that people were needed to bring the good news of redemption to them.

As He gazed around the room, He asked "Who will go for Me?" He stepped up to one person among the vast multitude and asked him, "Will you go?" The man, honored that the Lord would choose him out of the multitudes to represent Him in another land, says without hesitation, "It would be a privilege and an honor; I'll go." The Lord said that there were a few stipulations that should be considered. First of all, many will not have running water or electricity. Many will have to give up the comforts of home. Others will not be received well. Some may lose family members; others may even die themselves. As the Lord continued, many begin to stand up and say, "I too will go." As so many stood and responded to the call, the Lord was so overcome by the response of the people who were so willing to go, that He had to sit down. And the angels ministered to Him.

While He was being ministered to by the angels, a man with a mask on stood up in the crowd and said, "This is wonderful to see how many of you are responding to God's call. I want to say though that I don't think we ought to make rash decisions. Many of us have families, and it is important to think about them. After all, your family is your first ministry. Also, I should say that many of you standing are not yet prepared or even talented



enough for the job." Then he walked up to the man that the Lord had asked and said, "I would like to offer you a job with a very high paying position starting immediately." With that, the man began standing began thinking and then said, "If God has given me salvation, what could you possibly offer me?" and remained standing. Then the masked man continued saying to the crowd, "Most of all remember that we need plenty of workers here at home as well." With that, many thought about what he said and they began to sit down.

As the Lord came back to address the crowd, He said, "Weren't there more standing?" Again, He spoke to the crowd, "There are certain things that we must do for these brothers and sisters that are very important to sustain them. First, we must pray diligently for them. If you would pray for them for just ten minutes a day, then two people will be brought into the kingdom through their ministry because of your prayers. I will credit to your account one jewel for every two souls brought in by your ten minutes of prayer." Then He asked, "Who will pray?" Immediately hands shot up all over the place. One said, "I'll pray one hour a day for them." Many others said the same thing. Some said, "I'll dedicate one Friday night a month for them." Others said, "I'll do one full Saturday a month for them." Still more agreed to like commitments: "I'll give ten minutes of specific prayer each day...I'll give twenty...I'll give one half-hour..." Once again, the Lord was so overwhelmed by the response of the people and their willingness to see the Good News brought to the unsaved, that He was moved to tears and had to sit down. As He sat down, once again the man with the mask came forward to say, "I think that this is a very noble thing that is going on here, however, I feel I must caution you about overbooking your schedules. Many of you are already near to burnout and I wouldn't want to see any harm come to you. I don't think that you should neglect yourselves or your family by extra time commitments that might not be appropriate at this time. Also there are some here that need to take better care of their physical bodies. You'll do better to have a strong, healthy body fit to do the Lord's work. You should start a fitness program on Saturdays or Friday nights when the pressure of work is not crowding you. Or, even better, in the early mornings, when no one is around to bother you." With that, many thought about it and began to sit down.

Every now and then one might stand up, but it seemed that more were

to bother you. With that, many thought about it and began to sit down. Every now and then one might stand up, but it seemed that more were changing their minds and sitting down rather than accepting the privilege.

Once again the Lord came forward to address the crowd and said, "Weren't there more standing? There is another way we must stand by those who are going to go. In some cases, many will not be able to take money from the country that they will be going to. For others, the work will be too small to



sustain their family, and others will multiply 30, 60, and 100-fold back to the ministry where they will be going. We must sustain them. If you will give just ten dollars, two souls will be added to My kingdom. And for every two souls that come into My kingdom because of your ten dollars, I will credit to your account one jewel." Then He said, "Who will give?"

Immediately hands went up all over the place. One man stood up and said, "I'll give a thousand dollars." Others said, "I'll give a hundred." Others committed to twenty, fifty, or seventy-five. It seemed like everyone said something. Once again, the Lord was so moved by the sight of His people responding to His call for the Lost, that He went to sit down. Again the angels ministered to Him.

Once again the man with the mask on stood up in the midst of the congregation and said, "This is a great effort made by all; see how the Lord has moved. Yet, there is one thing you should know, and that is that I'm a salesman. Because of the overwhelming participation that I see here, I want to make a special offer to this wonderful crowd. I have a special today on, ummm, 27 inch color TVs. These are the good kind that have the VCR built right in, or maybe a satellite dish, or how about a new stereo? I know some of you need a new computer. I have the best right here, right now. Anything you need, I have it today for a special price. This is the price for the wonderful crowd here today: Whatever you were going to pledge to those going as missionaries, today I'll give it to you on the same monthly payment." With that, many began to think about their own personal "needs" and then began sitting down.

Those who were left who had pledged to pray and those who had pledged to give would not now cover the few who were standing.

Wouldn't it be easy if it were that simple and we'd see instantly that type of results with our participation? Yet, we are asked to participate even though we don't know if any fruit or reward will come of it. Yet, one thing is for sure, our active participation is needed to see the lost world saved.

The man with the mask in the story (the devil) didn't necessarily use bad things. His distractions seemed legitimate. However; they're really causing us to put all the attention onto ourselves, to ultimately distract us from everybody's call in life: participation in the spreading of the gospel. Remember, we serve God, He does not serve us.

Adoniram Judson constantly struggled against discouragement. It was seven years before he saw his first convert. To many that would seem like fruitless labor. Yet when he translated the Bible into Burmese, and it fell into the hands of a new convert named Karen, people who were waiting for a



book to come from the white brethren, (people) which contained the words of the true God; as Karen shared the gospel it caused one of the biggest mass conversions in history among many tribes.

No one's work is insignificant. For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro to find a man. Will you pray? Will you give? Will you go?

Eternity will tell how we responded to the privilege of being used by God in His work.

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