

Let no one delay in coming to the Supper. Let us put aside all idle wicked excuses and come to the Supper in which our souls are fed. Let no swelling of pride, delights of the senses keep us from the delights of the soul...

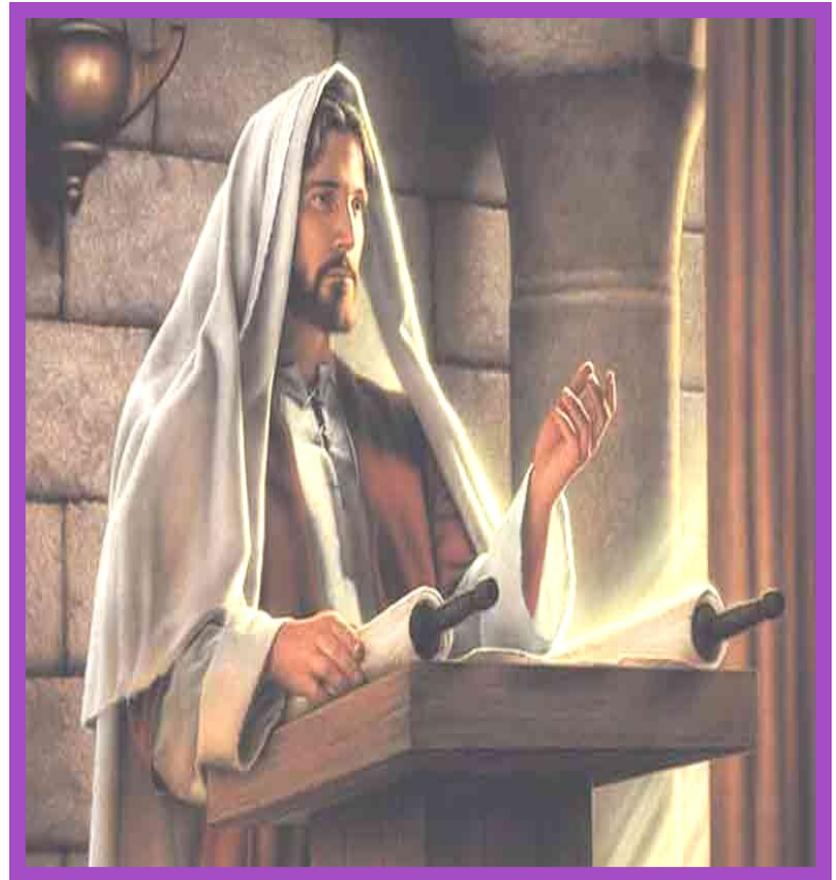
Let the poor, feeble, lame and blind come. Such as these came at the hour;

those first called being rejected because of their excuses... It is the Gentiles who came from the streets and the lanes. Let us come in of our own free will. The Lord however commanded: *Compel them, to come in*. They refused to be compelled, instead they find want; from that the will is born...



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.pamphletstoinspire.com

**SERMON ON
THE THREE EXCUSES FROM THE SUPPER
FROM THE FATHER'S OF THE CHURCH
161 - 1**



JESUS, OUR FIRST PREACHER!

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Based on the Divine Office-Douay-Rheims Version

Volume 2 - Pages 1488 - 1489 (1962 edition)

Commentary on the Gospel of Luke 14: 16-24

by: Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor

The Jews were invited to the Supper; we are brought there and compelled to enter... In the Gospel some were invited to a supper; we were not invited, but brought there and compelled to enter. For we have heard that, *A certain man made a great supper*. Who is this man, if not the mediator between God and man, Jesus Christ?... The hour had arrived for those invited to come. Who are the invited, but those who had been called by the prophets, who had been sent before this which were sent to the people of Israel. Often invited, they rejected the invitation and they prepared the Supper for us. Christ being offered up, and the Supper now ready, the Supper of the Lord, commended to us and confirmed by His hands and Mouth, as the faithful have learned, the Apostles are sent to those to whom the prophets had been sent before. *Come ye to the supper*.

What were the three excuses they made for not coming to the supper? One said: I have bought a farm and must go see it; another said: I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to try them; and the third said: I have married a wife, hold me excused I cannot come...

In the purchase of the farm, the pride of dominion is signified; so pride is castigated. To have a farm, to hold it as their possession, delights men. This man wishes to rule and have no one have dominion over him. Dominion means taking delight in one's own power. I have bought a farm; pray hold me excused. Having acquired power he refused to come.

The five yoke of oxen represents the curiosity of the five senses. Did it not suffice to say, I have bought oxen? The five senses of the body are: eyes, ears, smell, taste and touch... They are five in number and they are in prayers... Why are they spoken of as five yoke of oxen? It is through the senses of the body that earthly things are sought, for oxen till the earth. There are men without faith, given over to earthly things, taken up with the things of the body and they will not believe anything unless what they can discover by the fivefold perceptions of the body. They regard these five senses as the sole norm of their decisions... It was not the gratification of these five senses which seduce man that was signified but a certain curiosity. He does not say: *I have bought five yoke of oxen*, and I go to feed them; but, *I go to try them*. By the pairs of oxen, he does not wish to doubt. As with the holy Thomas, by means of his pairs, who did not wish to be left in doubt. I wish to see, to touch, to put my hand, he says. *Put thy fingers into my side*, says the Lord, *and be not faithless*. Through the place you wish to touch I have poured out my blood, that I may redeem you. Yet you doubt of me, until you touch Me? Look upon the place of My wound, and heal the wound of your own doubt.

The wife signifies the pleasure of the flesh. It is this pleasure that ensnares many. There are those who say: A man cannot be happy unless he enjoys the pleasures of the body. It is these to whom the Apostle refers, who says: Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we shall die (I Cor. xv. 32). He who has married has embraced flesh and excuses himself from the supper. Let him take care he does not die from inward hunger... *Love not the world nor the things of this world...*