

“Games People Play!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. Announcements:
- 1.2. Q: Games what were some of your favorite games growing up?

2. **GAMES PEOPLE PLAY! (1-24)**

- 2.1. **1ST GAME – MOUSE TRAP!** (1-6)
- 2.2. Remember the game **Mouse Trap**? [Once the mousetrap has been completely constructed, players attempt to capture each others' mice in it by turning the crank, which activates the mousetrap. If the mousetrap doesn't malfunction, the mouse is captured and out of the game. The winner is the last mouse who avoids being trapped]
 - 2.2.1. **Entrapment** is one of the games **human beings** often play with one another. **We set up a trap, into which we hope they will fall.**
- 2.3. It's to be noted that Jesus never refused any man's invitation of hospitality.
 - 2.3.1. We will never make our **enemies** our **friends** if we refuse to meet them and talk with them.
- 2.4. **Dropsy** – “looking watery”, **Edema**(excess fluid) { *hydrōpikos* – hdro/water}. [Rena Verner – child went home & said that her teacher had “*a-demon*” in her arm, instead “*e-dema*”]
 - 2.4.1. A symptom of several serious disorders such as **heart, kidney, or liver disease**. (we're not told which one this was)
- 2.5. **Took him & healed him** – “took hold of him & healed him.”
- 2.6. **Let him go** - Probably, dismissed him to get him away from these critics!
- 2.7. He quoted their own law and practice to them.
 - 2.7.1. **Open wells were quite common in Israel, and were frequently the cause of accidents.** (Ex.21:33)
 - 2.7.2. It was perfectly allowable to rescue a beast which had fallen in.
 - 2.7.3. **Jesus, with searing contempt, demands how, if it be right to help an animal on the Sabbath, it can be wrong to help a man.**
- 2.8. **2ND GAME – LOOK AT ME!** (7-11)
- 2.9. Every toddler knows how to play this, “*daddy look at me, watch me daddy*”; but what's normal for a toddler is pretty embarrassing when adults are still playing it.
 - 2.9.1. The point in this game is to make sure that everyone **sees** and **admires you**.
 - 2.9.2. **Jesus saw men competing for better seats at a banquet.**
 - 2.9.2.1. Seating in those days was ordered.
 - 2.9.3. How empty when we act from motives of “*what will others think?*”

- 2.10. The seats closest to the host were the best seats, and the guests looking for recognition tried to secure them.¹
- 2.10.1. Nowadays, the gracious host uses **place cards** for seating guests rather than embarrass someone needlessly by moving them publicly to a more appropriate seat.
- 2.10.2. If where we sit makes us important, then we are not very important!
- 2.10.3. It is **what we are**, not **where we sit** that really counts.
- 2.10.4. It is only the **little man** who is **self-important!**
- 2.10.5. Jesus probably had Prov.25:6,7 in mind “Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, And do not stand in the place of the great; For *it is better that he say to you, “Come up here,” Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, Whom your eyes have seen.”*
- 2.10.5.1. Ex: Harold & I in Haiti this week in line for graduation.
- 2.11. (11) This verse is a **basic principle** found in Scripture [Lk.18:14; Matt.23:12; Jam.4:6,10; 1 Pet.5:5; Prov.3:34]
- 2.11.1. **Humility** – Or, Rising Downward!
- 2.11.2. It not only draws **others** to us, but draws **God** to us.
- 2.11.3. “Imagine a world where everyone competed to outserve the other.”²
- 2.12. **3RD GAME – GUESS WHO’S COMIN TO DINNER!** (12-14)
- 2.13. This host was **self-seeking** in his **selection** of guests.
- 2.14. We should examine the **motives** behind all our generosity:
- 2.15. [1] A man may give from a **sense of duty**.
- 2.16. [2] A man may give purely from **motives of self-interest**.
- 2.16.1. But not if he invites someone who can’t ever invite him to his next feast! {i.e. can’t reciprocate}
- 2.17. [3] A man may give in order to **feel superior**.
- 2.17.1. The Rabbis had a saying that the best kind of giving was when **the giver** did not know **to whom he was giving**, and when **the receiver** did not know **from whom he was receiving**.
- 2.18. [4] A man may give because **he cannot help it**.
- 2.18.1. That is the only real way to give.
- 2.18.2. God gave because He *so loved the world*—and **so must we**.
- 2.19. How much better to reach out in love to those who no one knows but God.
- 2.19.1. You can be paid back in **this life** or **the next!**

¹ Warren Wiersbe; Outlines of the OT.

² Irwin McManus; Uprising; pg.46.

- 2.20. **4TH GAME – BALDERDASH!** (15-24)
- 2.21. A bluffing game in which you try to con your opponents into believing your made up answers.
- 2.22. **1st The Invitation!** (15-17)
- 2.23. A pious platitude? – “We’ll all be happy when we all get to heaven!”
- 2.23.1. “Are you sure you’re going to be there?”
- 2.24. An **invitation**, but with an expected **response**.
- 2.25. An R.S.V.P. = *répondez s’il vous plaît* (please respond) (To request a response)
- 2.26. The Jews pictured their future kingdom as a great feast with the patriarchs as the honored guests (last ch. vs.28,29). [See Isa. 25:6]
- 2.26.1. The **originally invited guests** stand for **the Jews**.
- 2.26.2. As **Bengel**, the great commentator, put it, “**both nature and grace abhor a vacuum**,” and when the Jews refused God’s invitation and left his table empty, the invitation went out to the gentiles.³
- 2.26.3. Jesus used this picture to illustrate the importance of accepting God’s invitation to “**salvation’s supper**”.
- 2.26.4. All we must do is: **accept the invitation, come, and be filled!**
- 2.26.5. **God loves the world** - that’s why He welcomes the world to His supper table.
- 2.27. **2nd The Excuses!** (18-20)
- 2.28. Remember we’d call out “*Apple, peaches, pumpkin pie, if you’re not ready holler I!*” – Well we have 3 people, *representing the group*, all yelling out “**I!**”
- 2.28.1. Not ready...but maybe tomorrow! [maybe when I **get my company where I want it**; Maybe when I **make enough**; Maybe when I **get the girl!**]
- 2.29. **Double invitation** – **1st** to convey the invitation, & to make preparations to accept; **2nd** when the Feast was ready! {Like bulletin announcements: We tell U they’re comin, & then tell you when they’re here!}
- 2.29.1. Remember, the guests in this story **had already agreed to come**; but then they **backed out**. Their **action** and **excuses** were a terrible **breach of etiquette** as well as an **insult** to the host.
- 2.30. Billy Sunday called **excuses**, “*the skin of a reason stuffed with a lie*”.
- 2.31. **Excuse #1 Business** –Umm, how could he examine his property in the dark? (supper)
- 2.32. **Excuse #2 Possessions** – Anybody who buys 10 oxen without 1st testing them is a fool.
- 2.33. **Excuse #3 Family** – Ok 1 year honeymoon (Deut.24:5 “**When a man has taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war or be charged with any business; he shall be free at home 1 yr, and bring happiness to his wife whom he has taken**”) So where does this include **a feast**?

³ *The Gospel of Luke*. (W. Barclay, lecturer in the University of Glasgow, Ed.). The Daily study Bible series, Rev. ed. (186).

- 2.33.1. Though all family ties are important, may they never keep us from **God**, from **fellowship**, from **service**!
- 2.33.1.1. Relationships at home are dearer & sweeter when the Lord is at the head! - Don't be selfish w/your mates time, let them go, & when you can go w/them!
- 2.33.2. So their **excuses** were **no excuses**!
- 2.33.3. **Q:** Has your **occupation**, **possessions**, or **domestic duties** kept you from being *concerned for your soul*?
- 2.34. Tragically, people of every age judge themselves **too busy** or **too involved in their games** to respond. **But this will not keep God's house from being filled.**
- 2.35. The invited guests made their excuses and men's excuses don't differ much **today**.
- 2.35.1. They make them in such a **plausible & polite** manner!
- 2.36. Note also these are **excuses** not **reasons**!
- 2.36.1. There is nor "**reason**" for refusing the gifts of the Son of God.
- 2.37. **5TH GAME – HIDE & GO SEEK!** (21-24)
- 2.38. After counting for a predetermined number the person that is "it" says, "*Ready or not, here I come!*" - The person "It" then begins a search for the hiding players.
- 2.38.1. Going out to seek & save those that were lost!
- 2.39. (22) **Still there is room** – There is room in the **precious blood of Christ**; There is room in the **gospel feast**; There is room **in Heaven**!
- 2.40. (23) This 1 sentence has been sadly misused, "**Go out into the highways & compel them to come in,**".
- 2.40.1. Long ago **Augustine** used that text as a justification for **religious persecution**. It was taken as a command to coerce people into the Christian faith.
- 2.40.2. It was used as a defense of the **inquisition**, the **thumb-screw**, the **rack**, the **threat of death and imprisonment**, the campaigns against the heretics, all those things which are the shame of Christianity.⁴
- 2.40.3. Beside it we should **always** set another text "**The love of Christ compels us**"(2 Cor.5:14) - In the kingdom of God there's only one compulsion...the compulsion of **love**.
- 2.40.4. Vincent, *Word Studies* – "Not to use force, but to constrain them against the reluctance which such poor creatures would feel at accepting the invitation of a great lord."⁵
- 2.40.4.1. This invitation of God is like those of **Royalty**, they have force of command.

⁴ ibid

⁵Vincent, M. R. (2002). *Word studies in the New Testament* (1:381). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

- 2.41. (24) He shut the door on the *excuse-making guests*, and he got others to take their places at the feast.
- 2.41.1. As there was “**still room** at God’s feast” in vs.22 – Unfortunately there is still room in **hell** for those desiring an **eternal Fast**. ☹
- 2.41.2. **Miss this Great Supper & there is no midnight snack!**
- 2.42. **There are 4 different Suppers in the Bible!** [1] This Great Supper [2] The Lord’s Supper [3] The Marriage Supper of the Lamb, & [4] The Supper of the Great God!
- 2.42.1. If you receive the **Supper of Salvation**, you may partake in the next supper...the **Lord’s Supper**. And await the **Marriage Supper of the Lamb** - And never face the **Supper of the Great God!**
- 2.42.2. If you do not “Come to the Table” at the 1st Supper; the 2nd won’t mean anything to you; you’ll miss the 3rd; but be assured you not only will be **at** the 4th dinner...you **will be** the 4th dinner!
- 2.42.3. Your choice **Eat or be Eaten!**
- 2.43. **End:** It is significant that Jesus thought of his kingdom in terms of **A FEAST!** 😊
- 2.43.1. The symbol of the kingdom was the **happiest thing** that human life could know.
- 2.43.2. This is the final condemnation of the Christian who is afraid to **enjoy himself**.
- 2.43.3. There has always been a type/brand of Christianity which has taken all the **color** out of life.
- 2.43.4. Julian the Apostate(Emperor who rejected Christianity) spoke of those “*pale-faced, flat-breasted Christians for whom the sun shone, and they never saw it.*”
- 2.43.5. A gloomy Christian is a contradiction in terms.
- 2.43.6. **Locke**, *the great philosopher*, defined laughter as “*a sudden glory.*”
- 2.43.7. **A Christian** is like a man who is forever at a **wedding feast**.
- 2.44. Sometimes we speak of God as if His only use for people is to use them.
- 2.44.1. But God created us for fellowship, not only with **each other**, but with **Him**. **God enjoys us!**
- 2.44.2. **Jesus** wasn’t only the **Savior** of sinners, but the **friend** of sinners!
- 2.45. **Q:** Are you still making excuses to God? - If so, they are as old as Adam!
- 2.45.1. And remember each of these people who gave there excuse above, thought they got away with it. “*He bought my excuse!*” Nope! Vs.24.