

## HOW TO FILL THIS CHURCH

**TEXT:**        *Luke 14:23: And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*

### Introduction:

This is what Jesus said to do. Most people would rather give instructions than take them. Our problem is: Do we have enough knowledge of the problems involved to offer the best solutions? Many churches today try to pray the lost in, and advertise them in. Jesus said: **“Compel them to come in”**. Our Lord wants His House full of people.

Why was this parable given? — ***That My House may be filled.*** Jesus will teach us what to do. If we work His way, the work will succeed. There is only one way to win over satan, and it is Jesus' way. We are tempted to bypass Jesus' way to fill His House, because it demands more effort than we are willing to expend. Today's slogan is “Take it easy”. Nearly everywhere we go, this is what we say to our friends when parting. The church has been taking that advice very literally; yet, it is the very opposite to what our Master told us to do. But the cults are growing because they are doing what we're supposed to be doing. Jesus told us what He wants, namely, a FULL HOUSE.

Next, He told us how to do it. He has a banquet, but no people. Food is inside, but the people are outside. God's servants are to serve; not to give orders — but to take them. Jesus gave this commandment as recorded in **Luke 14:23:**



***Go out into the highways and hedges and COMPEL them to come in.***

If we love Him, we will do WHAT He says, in the WAY He says it.

***John 14:21, 23:***

***21 He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.***

***23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him.***

Did you notice that the invitations are in various stages of urgency?

- A. The **first method** was very mild. It was the invitation in **John 14:17** which says, ***“Come, for all things now are ready.”***
- B. The **second invitation** is more urgent. **John 14:21: *Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.***

We need compassion for the lost who are often broken down under the load of sin. We also need a close walk with the Lord to bring them in through the supernatural help they need to get to Jesus.

***Ezekiel 33:6-8:***

***6 But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.***

***7 So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at My mouth, and warn them from Me.***

***8 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.***

If we let people go on in their sins and fail to warn them, their blood will be on our hands. We are saying to this lost soul: “Go to Hell for all I care” when we neglect going to them with a sense of urgency.

Jesus said:

***Mark 16:15: And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.***

**If we let people go on in their sins and fail to warn them, their blood will be on our hands.**

**1 Corinthians 4:2: Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.**

**Revelation 2:10: Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

**Revelation 22:12: And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**

Oh Church, you will dry up if you don't do personal work.

- C. Then **the third call** was most forceful. It is very urgent and compelling. Jesus said: **“Compel them to come in”**. There is to be no wedding feast for just a few. Our Lord wants HIS HOUSE FULL. He expects us to feel as He feels about the lost.

**Unconcern is caused by a lack of love.**

**UNCONCERN:** The “I don't care” attitude — a lack of interest; produces. Neglect leads to costly damage to the church and to the lost world. Unconcern is caused by a lack of love. Christ's love is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, and constrains us, no matter where, how, or when.

**Romans 5:5: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**

**2 Corinthians 5:14: For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:**

All that is needed for sin and the devil to triumph is for Christians to do nothing. All good and nice words, and no deeds or actions accompanied by worthless chatter. It is hypocrisy and even wicked. Jesus said of the hypocritical Pharisees, as recorded in **Matthew 23:3:**

**... but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.**

**All that is needed for sin and the devil to triumph is for Christians to do nothing.**

There are too many grandstand church members. We must move out from these four walls to serve Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. We cannot

heartlessly leave the sinners in their lost condition, untouched. No wonder  
The Word teaches:

***Amos 6:1: Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!***

These are some of the signs of SELF-LOVE: eating, drinking, sex, and love of ease. When we are idle like King David was, we will get into toying with sin. Cold, heartless religion doesn't want to be involved. Neither does it want to be disturbed.

***2 Samuel 11:2-5:***

***<sup>2</sup> And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.***

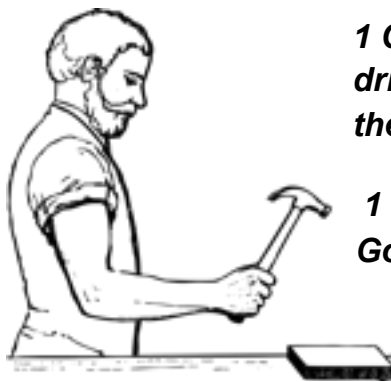
***<sup>3</sup> And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite***

***<sup>4</sup> And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.***

***<sup>5</sup> And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.***

## **JESUS IS A BUILDER.**

***Upon this Rock [Christ Himself] I will build My Church.***



***1 Corinthians 10:4: And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.***

***1 Corinthians 3:9: For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.***

He involves us in his work, as Paul said, "We are laborers or workers together with God."

***2 Corinthians 6:1a: We then, as workers together with him, . . .***

Lukewarm or mediocre service is caused by indifference and not expecting much. We should work at the top of our efficiency. There are no unimportant jobs in our Lord's Kingdom. If we lack zeal, we weaken God's work. We are contaminated by laziness, and this condition puts us in the Laodicean Church category, and that kind of church makes God sick. If this doesn't mean anything to you — God have mercy on your lean soul, for you will surely need it.

God pursues lost mankind. It was exemplified in the life of Christ.

***Luke 19:10: For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.***

We are supposed to be the partakers of His divine nature, according to:

***2 Peter 1:4: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine Nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.***

Then I am led to believe, we should be conducting our own activities in the same manner as our Lord Jesus did. In fishing for souls, Christ Jesus went where they were. He told us:

***Mark 1:17: And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after Me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.***

## **CONCLUSION:**

Jesus wants this church to be full. Before we can do our part effectively, we need to be full of The Holy Spirit and have a love for souls. Will you join me at this altar today for a refilling? For it to go well with us at the Judgment Seat of Christ, we dare not disobey His command any longer. I urge you to come and surrender your life to Him.

Before we can do our part effectively, we need to be full of The Holy Spirit and have a love for souls.

***2 Corinthians 5:10: For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.***

***Matthew 11:28: Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.***

Jesus is so concerned about your condition. If you go on in your sins, unrepentant, you will die and go to a devil's hell. Jesus wants to change your sinful heart and make you a child of God. All you need to do is:

**(a) Repent of all known sin.**

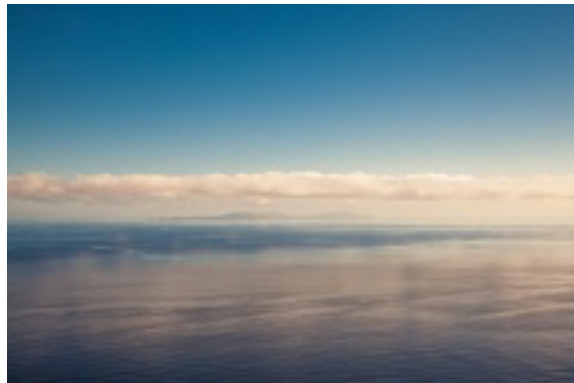
**(b) By faith receive Jesus into your heart to be your Saviour**

***Romans 10:9-10:***

***<sup>9</sup> That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.***

***<sup>10</sup> For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***

Confess Him to be your Saviour and Lord openly, according to these scriptures, and you will experience the true peace for which you have longed.



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