

Blog: Come and Get It

Have any of us ever sat down and considered how many things we get invited to do? It's rather amazing when thinking about it. Just thinking about making a list seems over whelming. Let's consider some invitations together.

We might as well start early on in our lives. Even when many of us were little, wiggly, and demanding we were probably being invited to eat new things. That may have happened even if we weren't fond of the flavor. Some people may have offered this to us anticipating our strong reaction.

There probably were people who invited us to come to them, or play some exciting game. My dad used to put me on his knees, and sing a song about "Old John Brown". This ended with his knees giving way, me falling backwards, only to be saved at the last moment by my dad who'd continued to hold onto my arms.

Then there were the times my older sister and her friend invited me and my pal to enjoy the little chocolate cakes they'd made, which were really made of mud. Somehow it took us longer than it should've to figure out it wasn't chocolate cake. We ate them just to listen to our sisters' squeal, laugh, and promise to make us more.

We did learn not to accept all invitations we received. It's a lesson best learned early, but it's amazing how most of us never seem to actually master resisting invitations.

Most of us have been invited to eat with others. Maybe to grab a burger together. Go for a drive, walk together, or even go to a party. If we want more invitations just watch television to be invited to do all kinds of things, including watching more TV.

It's possible to be invited to buy a brand new car that will make us feel powerful, excited, in control of our destiny, and relaxed within luxury all at the same time. Plus, we're sure to impress those that see us tooling along in our new set of wheels.

What do we want to achieve? Do we want to look powerful, dignified, dangerous, safety minded, efficient, conservative, concerned for the world, or responsible? We can be any of these things through the cars we drive, the clothes we wear, the food we eat, the people we associate with, and even get more invitations along the way.

Perhaps some of us have quit watching anything on the "smart screen" if it has ads included. We just can't handle all those invitations. It's too stressful to take it all in and decide which invitation we should accept! Hah! Ha!

The world has so many different types of invitations, including the one's to solve a problem we didn't know we had by calling a number, clicking on a link, or giving someone information they ask for. Think about all the characteristics of this world, and you can probably be invited to do something healthy or not, safe or not, lawful or not, honest or not, and a plethora of other variations.

Systems of interactive processes in this world have invitations, or demands that require our attention. We can't engage any one of those systems without paying a price. Probably, without fail, they always require something of great value that we can never get more of ... our time.

How should we guess the percentage of invitations in this world that take time away from us, without providing any benefit equal to the cost? How about 99.9%? Too negative, or too optimistic?

One thing is for sure. There is one invitation that gives us something far greater than what it costs us. It sounds like this:

- *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”* {Matthew 11:28}
- *“But Jesus called for them, saying, ‘Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’”* (Luke 18:16)
- *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”* (John 5:24)
- *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”* (John 3:16-17)

The most important invitation any of us will ever have is the one God has held open for each of us, and He will continue to invite us until we no longer exist on this earth. There is no invitation that can even come close to the Lord’s invitation to accept His free gift of Life in Jesus His Son. It is free because God paid the price for us. He gives His Life to us freely because He loves us perfectly. We cannot earn it.

As we engage in what we call living on this earth, all those other invitations and demands will work together to keep us from accepting God’s gift of eternal Life. That’s what the world is designed to do. Please don’t miss God’s invitation by thinking we must pay attention to everything else first.