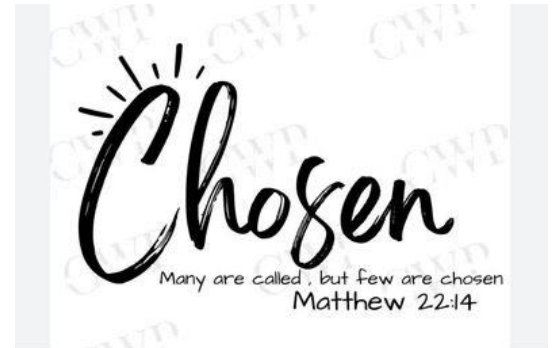


## For Many Are Called, But Few Are Chosen

As a kid, I played lots of sandlot baseball. The two best players were designated to be the captains, who went through the process of choosing teams. Everyone stood in front of them with the hope of being chosen. One-by-one, the names were called out, starting with the best players, and then it went from there. You always made eye contact with those doing the choosing. There was relief when your name was called, then you moved behind the captain while everyone else waited anxiously in hopes of being selected.

With that mindset, I read the passage from Matthew 22:14. *For many are called, but few are chosen.* The initial picture in my mind was of Jesus picking people to be on His team for a place in Heaven. I had this image of many people standing around, hoping they were “good enough” to be chosen. In my mind there were many more hopeful people than positions on His team. After all, the Bible says, “Few are chosen.” Would I be rejected?



We all know that God does things differently than we do on Earth. Many times, God does things the exact opposite of the worldview. God doesn't reject people. It is the other way around – people reject God. We are all called to faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. The choice is ours – do we accept the invitation to follow Him?

Earlier in the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Matthew, there is a parable about a man who wasn't allowed in the “wedding feast” (which represents the Kingdom of Heaven in the parable). The man wasn't wearing the proper cloak required for admittance. The cloak represents “worthiness.” Truthfully, none of us are worthy to enter the Kingdom of God. There is nothing we can do to be “good enough.” Only because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross for our sins can we be worthy. Our sins are washed clean because of the blood Jesus shed on the Cross for us. Our faith in Jesus makes us worthy. We are not deserving of God's invitation, but through His Grace and Mercy, we are made worthy.

When you look at the number of people who will have walked the face of the Earth since Jesus' day, comparatively few will choose to follow Jesus. But all are called to follow Him. The NIV translation of Matthew 22:14 uses the word “invited.” It reads *For many are invited, but few are chosen.* That translation makes it clear. Everyone is invited. That is why we have the Great Commandment, to encourage us to spread the Good News to those who have not yet heard it. All who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, receive the forgiveness of their sins, and amend their life to live like Him, will make the team. As you live your life, make eye contact with Jesus through constant communication. Keep Jesus as the first priority of your life. There is no need to be anxious as you wait for your name to be called. He will call the names of all His followers. My prayer is that you will be included. I choose Jesus.

**Question:** Who will you share your faith with today, to grow the Kingdom of God?

**Prayer:** Without You, none of us are worthy to enter the Kingdom of God, but through your Mercy and Grace, we want to be with You. Amen.