

## Daily Devotional, January 29, 2021 An Open Invitation

***On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. John 2:1-2***

I have often wondered who the person or persons were that invited Jesus to the wedding that took place in Cana of Galilee? Do you think it was the parents of the bride, or may be the bride herself? Maybe it was the groom's side. I also wonder if they had some inkling of how special Jesus was. I wonder if they had the same knowledge that Mary had of God's power that resided in Him. Who could have guessed that Jesus would make this wedding such a special day that would be immortalized forever in Bible history? This wedding miracle, so well-known to all of us, was made possible because of *an invitation*.

A simple invitation can change someone's life. I was a high school junior when a friend invited me to an event that transformed my life in a number of ways. One weekday morning at school, just after my last class had ended, Lane made his way over to my locker and invited me to attend a new high school youth program that would be starting at his church that Saturday night. I accepted his invitation, not knowing a single thing about it other than it was being called a "coffeehouse". When I arrived that night, I was excited to find people playing guitars and singing familiar folk and rock songs of that time, mixed in with some Christian tunes.

Besides seeing people who I already knew from school, I met several people that night that would become some of my closest friends. I enjoyed the music and the conversation, and the speaker from a local health food store who appeared that night who actually had much impact on my nutrition. I had such a great time that evening. I made sure I came back the next time they met. From that point on, I became part of the volunteer staff. I got to know the pastor pretty well, and he allowed me to lead a Christian "folk" worship service.

A few years later, the program came to an unfortunate end, however, it made such an impact on my life that I became heavily involved in the Lutheran church in my neighborhood after Laura and I were married, And some years later, God called me into ministry. Through that youth ministry I grew to become a person who was able to hear and discern the call of God in my life.

Lane probably did not think his invitation was any "big deal". It turns out that simple invitation turned out to be a life-changing event for me.

Have you ever hoped to make a difference in another person's life? Do you believe that God could somehow use you to make a difference in putting another person's life on a different trajectory? It could be that a simple invitation is the great feat that God calls you to accomplish today to make a difference in someone's life. How about inviting someone to our worship livestream, or to one of our virtual Bible studies or maybe a young person to our virtual Sunday School? Your invitation could be that very impulse that changes someone's life!

***Prayer: God, I am not gifted with eloquent speech, but I ask that You open up more opportunities, and grant me the power and the boldness to invite others to come and know You. Break down barriers that I might perceive which get in the way of others learning the mystery of Christ and His love. May I be your humble servant. In the name of Christ, my Lord, Amen.***