A. The invitations were extended
B. The invitations were eluded
1. The first man offers what I call the excuse LAND.
2. The second man offers what I call the excuse of LABOR.
3. The third man offers what I call the excuse of a LADY.

I wonder if this verse explains how the angels are made aware of conversions? The scene beggars description.
The Son rejoices, and the Father rejoices, and the angels catch the rapture of it.
On November 14, 1998 thousands were watching on TV the Kansas State Wildcats and the Nebraska Cornhuskers play football in Manhattan, Kansas. Kansas has not beaten Nebraska in almost 30 years and when the game was over and the Wildcats of Kansas had won.... there was great rejoicing. The commentator for ABC, Keith Jackson, said while wrapping it up and signing off, "Goodnight from the happiest place on earth, Manhattan, Kansas." While I pondered his words I can't help but think of the words of our text about joy in heaven over one sinner who gets saved. If you are here and have not accepted Christ, you have the opportunity to set off a celebration in heaven that will make the one at Kansas State look like a neighborhood party.

III. Hell and Its SADNESS -Luke 16:19-31
A. Hell is an actual place
B. Hell is an awful place
C. Hell is an avoidable place
Certain facts in this account demand our consideration:
1. Death is not the termination of existence.
2. Eternity does not provide an opportunity for those who died unrepentant to make a further decision relating to salvation.
3. In all matters relating to this world and the next, the Scriptures stand supreme.
4. If men desire to prepare for eternity, they should begin immediately.

THE TRUTH ABOUT SALVATION
Jonah 2:9

We are living in an age when knowledge is literally exploding. There is more knowledge available at our fingertips than any other time in our history. One thing all of this knowledge has taught us, however, is, that nobody knows everything.
A census taker knocked on the door of an old backwoods shack up in West Virginia. An old timer came to the door and asked the man what he wanted. "The President has sent us across the country to find out exactly how many people live in the United States" the man said.
The hillbilly said, "Well I'm sorry you came all the way out here to ask me because I ain't got the faintest idea."
There is much that we can know, and yet there is much that we don’t know. However, there is one thing that everybody ought to know, and that is the salvation that is of the Lord.
If you know everything else, but do not the salvation of the Lord, you have lost it all.
The most important message in the Bible is the message of salvation. Salvation is the reason Jesus came into the world.
Confusion about salvation means disaster. The message of salvation is matter of eternal life or eternal death.
I want to look at three different salvation experiences from the book of Acts and point out some vital truths about any salvation.

Saul's salvation - Acts 9:1-5
Lydia's salvation - Acts 16:14,15
Philippian jailer's salvation - Acts 16: 23-34

I. The experience of salvation may be different
We don't all have the same experiences surrounding our salvation. All are saved by grace, but the working of grace in our life oftentimes is different. All are saved alike but not all that are saved are alike. There is no difference; but there is a difference.
A. Saul's conversion was marked with clearness (Acts 9:1-5)
B. Lydia's conversion was marked with quietness (Acts 16:14,15)
C. Philippian jailer's conversion was marked by suddenness (Acts 16: 23-34)
Saul was the tormented soul who was converted
Lydia was the tender soul who was converted
Jailer was a tough soul who was converted

II. The essence of salvation must be divine
"Salvation is of the Lord"
Salvation is of the Lord in it's origination!
The plan of salvation is entirely of God. No human intellect and no created intelligence assisted God in the planning of salvation. It is a plan too splendid to have been the product of any mind except of that mind which afterward carried it out.
Salvation is of the Lord in its execution!
God not only planned salvation, but He also provided the means whereby He could justly accomplish it. The Lord Jesus Christ provided sufficient atonement by His precious blood to put away the sin of the world
Salvation is of the Lord in it's application
Salvation is of the Lord in its duration!
Those whom have God's salvation are eternally secure in Christ Jesus. They are kept by the power of God.
To entertain any idea that a man is saved one day, only to be lost on another is to believe that salvation is of works, not of grace.
A convert gave their first testimony. Thrillingly and triumphantly she said, "The Lord saved me through and through and for Keeps." Don’t you like that!
There are a few things that are fundamental to any salvation experience. Though the a experience of salvation may differ, the essence any salvation is the always same. Though the circumstance around a salvation may differ, the substance of any salivation is always the same. Though the situations of a salvation may differ, the foundations of any salvation are always the same.
A. The light of God's Word is revealed
B. The life of God's Son is received
C. The love of God's Spirit is released

III. The evidence of conversion will be demonstrated
II Corinthians 5:17
• Here is a message which is inclusive - "any man"
• Here is a miracle which is creative "new creature"
During the mighty movements of the Holy Spirit in the Moody-Sankey meetings in Dublin, the worldly father of C.T. Studd was gloriously saved. He invited some of his worldly companions to come to his home so that he could tell them the wonderful news. When one wealthy English sportsman arrived at the railway
station he was met by the coachman. He could not wait till he got to the house to know what had happened to his old friend, so he began to question the coachman.

"I hear that something remarkable has happened to your master. I hear he’s got religion. Please tell me about it. In what way is Mr. Studd changed?"

"Oh," said the Irish coachman, "It’s a revolution. In one sense he is still the same man--he’s in the same body. But the best way I can explain him is he’s a new man in the old skin."

The new creature receives a new set of appetites and a new set of attitudes.

A. In Paul it was a **changed purpose**
B. In Lydia it was a **changed pocket**
C. In the jailer it was a **changed person**

**Conclusion**

Though the experience of salvation may be different, the essence of salvation must be divine for us all, and the evidence of conversion mandates a demonstration in all those who are saved.

Have you been saved? Have you repented and put your faith in Jesus?