



# “1 NUMBER CHANGED EVERYTHING”

## “The Greatest Invitation”

*John 3:16*

December 8, 2013 AM Worship

### WHAT MAKES IT THE GREATEST INVITATION?

- It is a Whoever Kind of Invitation
- It is a However Kind of Invitation
- It is a Wherever Kind of Invitation
- It is a Whenever Kind of Invitation

### THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE INVITATION

- God's Invitation Universal, but it is not Universalism.
- God's Invitation is Available, but it is not Automatic
- God's Invitation Has a Time Limit

### MY RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION (R.S.V.P.)

- To give my heart and life to Jesus TODAY!
- To make public my response to the invitation
- To invite others to receive the greatest invitation
- To pray without ceasing, to give sacrificially and go anywhere He calls so that others can hear.
- My response to the invitation is \_\_\_\_\_

## **JOHN 3:16 THE NUMBERS OF HOPE**

“The Greatest Invitation”

**John 3:16**

December 8, 2013 AM Service

**For God** - Who God is, and what they means for me, who I am, Who I can Be,  
What I can Have, The Greatest God

**So Loved** God defines loves, He is love personified The Greatest Lover  
Who is His Love poured out on? **The World... The Greatest Number!**

**That He gave... How Did God Give? The Greatest Giver**

To Establish, Extravagantly, Everything, Eagerly, Eternally, Exactly what we  
needed, As Evidence, As an Example

**My Response is to Give What Can I Give to Him?**

My Heart & My Life My Time, Talents, & Treasure & My Testimony

**What Does the World Say Is the Greatest Gift?** Wealth Power Fame

**What Makes Jesus the Greatest Gift?**

God Sends His Son to This Earth He Showed Up, He Sees, Knows, and Feels  
What We Do, He Stands Up & He Shuts Up the Enemy, He Sits at the Right  
Hand of the Father

**Why is Jesus the Greatest Gift?**

He is Our Savior and our Salvation, He Sets Us Free, He is Our Security He is  
Our Daily Strength & Song, He is Steadfast, He is Our Stronghold, He  
Supplies All My Needs

**What Do I Do With This Greatest Gift?**

I Can Accept It or I Can Reject It & I Must Share It

Invitations come in all shapes and sizes now, from weddings to birthday  
parties, to anniversaries, to showers and everything in between. Old fashioned,  
to the newest thing, fancy writing you can hardly read to plain a plain old font.

**ILLUS: My Wedding Invitation**

Really that is not the most important part is it? What you and I are being  
invited to is the most important part.

This morning, I want us to stop and think about the greatest invitation ever  
offered to you and me, and in fact as we will discover what makes  
it the greatest invitation is that it is offered to everyone, everywhere.

This invitation though is certainly not pretty, though it is beautiful, it is plain  
and simple, yet amazingly infinite and complex, it is pure and clean, yet dirty  
and bloody, all of these things at the same time.

And here is that invitation, we find it really two places, the manger the crown of thorns, and the cross of Jesus. That is our invitation today.

(Have the manger and cross of thorns available to refer to)

Also, the cross with the words of John 3:16

That is the greatest invitation.

[Matthew 22:2-14](#), [Luke 14:16-24](#) The Invitation extended by the King

## WHAT MAKES IT THE GREATEST INVITATION?

- It is a **Whoever** kind of invitation

Whoever, **PAS** every, the whole, all, anyone.

It is a whoever invitation and not a whatever invitation. The scope is not narrowed. Not whatever Jew believe, man believes, nice person believes. The invitation is offered to everyone, no matter good or evil, rich or poor, clean or dirty, American or Russian, Iraqi or Iranian, black or white, murderer or thief, businessman or farmer, one with great morals or no morals executive or garbage man, it just simply doesn't matter, it is whoever.

That went against what the Jewish people believed and too often it goes against what we believe. We place ourselves above people, sometimes not meaning too, but when we do, we cross out the words of Scripture we find here in whoever!!

["Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven."](#) [Matthew 10:32 \(NIV\)](#)

["Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."](#) [Matthew 10:39 \(NIV\)](#)

["Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."](#) [Mark 3:35](#)

["Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."](#) [Mark 16:16-17 \(NIV\)](#)

["Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."](#) [John 3:36 NIV](#)

["whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst."](#) [John 4:14](#)

["whoever comes to me I will never drive away."](#) [John 6:37 \(NIV\)](#)

["whoever lives and believes in me will never die."](#) [John 11:26 \(NIV\)](#)

["Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life."](#) [Rev 22:17 \(NIV\)](#)

“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved." Rom 10:9-13 (NASU)

- **It is a However kind of invitation**

Rich man and Lazarus [Luke 16:19-31](#) However you find yourself today, the invitation is for you. Lazarus gets no invitation here on earth, he would be the exception then right? NO way! Now Lazarus needs nothing and the rich man needs everything! The rich man loses the lap of luxury and Lazarus discovers the lab of Abraham.

No need to clean your act up first, or climb up to where He is. We come to Jesus just as I am without on plea. Song: “Come to Jesus and live” “Come Just as You Are”

- **It is a Whenever kind of invitation**

Whenever you hear God’s voice, He welcomes and invites your response. He will speak to someone today, the question will be will you respond to this whenever invitation. It doesn’t have to be in a church, in a revival, on a Sunday, it can be anywhere.

[Matthew 20:1-16](#) Eleventh Hour grace, just like a thief on the cross.

- **It is a Wherever kind of invitation**

You and I are never too far away from God to come home. Remember back to the prodigal Son? How much farther away from home could have possibly been both in physical location and spiritually? He had wasted his life away so he didn’t qualify, needed to clean himself up first, come back as just a slave and that would suffice – thank God that’s not how it works in God’s economy or God’s family! God is saving a place at His banquet table for you, but you must respond to this wherever invitation.

## **THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE INVITATION**

- **God’s Invitation is Universal, but it is not Universalism**

It is offered to the whole world, referring back to our earlier study that God so loved the entire world. There is no exclusions, no prerequisites, just

simply an invitation. But notice, it is universal for everyone, but some are teaching today that everyone will get to heaven eventually. Whether now, or in eternity to come.

2 Things. Jesus said in [John 14:6](#) "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me."

Jesus also said, and we will talk about this in 2 weeks, that there will be a time when the door will shut forever. [Matthew 25:10](#).

- **God's Invitation is Available to ALL, but it is not Automatic** "Not everyone who says to me on that day, Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven." [Matthew 7:21](#)

This is not like a sorority where if your mother or sister, aunt, whatever you were a most likely a shoe in. You were a legacy. It doesn't work that way in God's kingdom. Just because your granddaddy was a deacon, mother was the WMU director, whatever, my parents were Christian, I lived in America, in the Bible Belt of the South, that will qualify me.

I was a good person, I went to church, I gave, I even did nice things for the poor. Jesus will say, depart from me for I knew you not.

It is not automatic, we must make a choice, an act of our will to turn our lives over to Jesus Christ, TO Admit, Believe and Confess.

- **God's Invitation has a Time Limit**

It ceases at death or the rapture. There is a deadline, whether we RSVP or not. Yet, we don't know that will be for each of us. It will come for all of us. It is a whenever invitation, but we need to respond then, not later for we are not guaranteed tomorrow.

**ILLUS: RSVP**, only a certain amount will respond. Are you good about that. Most of hate to do it, but hate when others don't. Our wedding, we are were told what the percentages who would respond.

What RSVP Means

The term R.S.V.P. comes from the French expression "répondez s'il vous plaît", meaning "**please respond**". If R.S.V.P. is written on an invitation it means the invited guest must tell the host whether or not they plan to attend the party. It does not mean to respond only if you're coming, and it does not mean respond only if you're not coming (the expression "regrets only" is reserved for that instance). It means the host needs a definite head count for the planned event, and needs it by the date specified on the invitation.

Doesn't not matter who you are, where you are, what you are, or when it is, the invitation is extended is extended to you and me today.

There is no status too low or too high, no hour too late or too soon, no place too far or close by, However, Whenever, Wherever, and Whoever include you Forever – it just simply comes down to this...what will your Response be?

### **MY RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION (R.S.V.P.)**

- **To give my heart and life to Jesus TODAY!** Some, you might be a church member, but you are not a believer.
- **To make public my response to the invitation** Talked to Mom and Dad, VBS, Summer camp, time to make that public. It is not up to Mom and Dad, you need to decide you are ready.
- **To invite others to receive the greatest invitation** How can we not invite others to the greatest invitation of all times. We must!!
- **To pray without ceasing, to give sacrificially and go anywhere He calls so that others can hear.** Maybe you haven't given that gift to Lottie Moon, maybe you need to pray about going, whatever.  
**Will we respond** – there has never been a greater hour than to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth right now!!
- **My response to the invitation is \_\_\_\_\_**  
For someone today, maybe it is to respond to God's daily invitation to come spend time with Him, to focus on Him each and everyday.  
You fill in the blank today and respond to Him!!