



Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Subject: Being called vs. being chosen

Dear Dr. Ryrie: What does the phrase "Many are called, but few are chosen" mean? Does it mean that some people don't even have a chance to be chosen? --Justin A.

Dear Justin: Read Matthew 22:14 in its context. Many had been invited to the wedding feast but either rejected or ignored the invitation. Yet many also responded to the invitation and came. The many who are called refers to the people who received an invitation to the banquet. The few who were chosen refers to those who did come. Please notice that choosing in and of itself did not guarantee a place at the wedding feast--there had to be a positive response to the invitation before they would be included. I do believe in election (Eph. 1:4); but just as in this parable in Matthew 22, those who were chosen had to respond. So also those who are God's elect have to respond to the gospel and believe in Christ before they can be saved.

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