

## THE GREAT BANQUET | LUKE 14:15-33

### I. THE PARABLES OF JESUS

- A. Parables are stories or illustrations told by Jesus **to illustrate divine truths**. They are illustrations by Jesus to illuminate the nuances of the Word, God, and the Kingdom.
  - 1. Parables are not stories to **conclude** theological truths, but they help **illuminate** truths already found in scripture and God's heart.
- B. In this series **our goal** is simple: **To get better acquainted with God and His Word through the stories Jesus told.**
- C. **Series challenge: Read 10 chapters of the New Testament for 31 days.** If you read 10 chapter a day of the New Testament, you'll read the New Testament in a month.
  - 1. We want to be a people who read the Word of God everyday, so that **every day we can go on a quest to re-insert God and His supremacy over our hearts.**

### II. OUR THEME AND PARABLE TODAY.

- A. **The theme today:** **Jesus asks for more than we remember, but offers far more than we can imagine.**
  - 1. **The cost of our salvation was our repentance.** Repentance, is the act of engaging our faith to turn our lives around from the direction we were headed to the direction he is leading us to.
  - 2. **The prize of salvation is greater than any sermon has ever said.** The joy, acceptance, peace, love, extravagant life that God has prepared for us is unlike we can actually imagine. God has prepared the most beautiful banquet for us.
- B. **"When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die."** \_ Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- C. **Today's theme comes with a question:** **Does your stuff keep you from what God has prepared for you?**
- D. **Our Parable:** **The Great Banquet.**
  - 1. Jesus is responding to one of the Pharisees' friends at dinner who makes a pious claim about them exclusively enjoy the bread at God's feast in eternity.
  - 2. **Jesus tell this story** to make **2 points:**
    - a. Many of the Jews will not partake of the eternal feast because they weren't **willing to give up** their endeavors to join God is the feast He was preparing.

- b. **Sinners, tax-collectors, outcasts**, as well as **gentiles and non Jews** will because He will extend the invitation to them and they will give up everything to be at God great feast.

### III. A CLOSER LOOK AT THIS PARABLE

- A. **Christianity is a feast prepared for us.** Religion is **something you have to do**. Christianity is declaration of something **God has done**.
  - 1. Christianity **is like going to a great feast** that is put on **for you to enjoy**. This feast is no small feast, it is unlimited.
  - 2. **Every appetite you have is satisfied at this feast.** Every desire you have He has prepared a way for it to be met far and above every expectation you could possibly have. **This banquet is not just a feast but a party.**
    - a. **“Taste and see that the Lord is Good.”** – Ps 34:8
    - b. **“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”** -Ps 16:11
  - 3. **No one is excluded** from this banquet. Everyone was invited. Jews, Gentiles, the poor, the lame, the sinner.
    - a. **The only ones excluded from the banquet were those who excluded themselves.**
    - b. Jesus desires that every human be at this banquet in eternity. Every human is invited and ever human was made to taste and eat and enjoy the feast He has prepared. Only those who turn down His invitation will miss it.
      - a. Even on this side of eternity. We can reject the fruits of depressions, fear, and bitterness but accepting the invitation to his feast.

**(a) Whenever we turn to Jesus, we see that he is already reaching down prepared to offer us the feast of a lifetime.**
  - 4. In middle Eastern custom, **two invitations were given**. The initial invitation, then the second when the feast was ready.
    - a. This parable **is directed** (in context) **to the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders** at the dinner table. They accepted the words of the prophets (**the first invitation**) but when the messiah came, and was announced (**by John the Baptist, the second invitation**) they were too busy to respond.
    - b. He then invited the:
      - a. **Poor maimed and lame** = The sinners and tax collectors etc.

b. **Those on the highways and by-ways** = The Gentiles

5. **The lame excuses of the invitees**

a. **The first excuse**: Has to go see a field he bought.

a. Who buys a field that they haven't seen?

b. If he had seen it, who is so wrapped up their property that they cant go see it another day?

b. **The second excuse**: Has to go examine and test out the 5 yoke of oxen he just bought.

a. Who buys oxen without checking to make sure they're healthy, not blind or lame?

b. He was wrapped up in his property.

c. **The third excuse**: Just got married.

a. It was customary in Jewish culture to take a year off from work to learn how to be married the first year of marriage. **(Duet 25)** However, this was not work but a great banquet that would have been a joy to bring a new spouse to.

b. He wrapped up in his family.

6. Jesus says these who made excuses and did go to the banquet **will not be** extended another invitation. **They will miss it.**

7. The theme of Luke 14 is very clear from the moment Jesus got to the home of the Pharisees: **Choosing your own way will lead to humiliation and exclusion at your own doing.**

**IV. JESUS ASKS FOR MORE THAN WE REMEMBER BUT OFFERS MORE THAN WE COULD EVER IMAGINE.**

A. **What Jesus asks for: Your life.** But not in a cold authoritative sort of way. Jesus isn't looking for stale compliance to show you whose boss. ***He wants your life so he can give you for beyond what you can give yourself.***

1. All of creation has surrendered its life to its creator. As a result, the trees bear fruit in time, flowers bloom at the right time, and bloom bold beautiful colors. Jesus asks that we surrender our life to our creator, so that He can manifest His glory and beauty in our life and lavish us with the greatest banquet that we satisfy our every longing.

- B. **Jesus said after this parable:** *“So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”* Luke 14:33
  - 1. ***He cannot write your story if you have one hand on the pen.*** He's going to blow your mind with what he can do, but you have to lay down everything.
- C. ***“He is no fool, who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.”*** – Jim Elliot.

**V. DOES YOUR STUFF KEEP YOU FROM WHAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR YOU?**

- A. Are we like the trio of people with lame excuses that keep us from the banquet?
- B. Are we distracted by our stuff? By our plans? By our agendas to keep this life going?
- C. Will we accept the invitation to His feast?