

116 S. B Street, Monmouth, IL 61462; (309)734-2106



FIRST LUTHERAN MONNMOUTH @FLCMONMOUTH.ORG

Gathered by God, We Live Our Faith with: Compassion, Grace, Gratitude, and Joy.

Introduction: This parable features a great feast hosted by a man who upon learning all those who were invited refused to come found a new way to fill his home and host his feast. The host was angry at all the excuses given, and brought in all sorts of people he would never have initially invited. These newly invited all came, mostly because they were compelled to come, and mostly because they had no choice. Sometimes parables stand alone and have clear meaning when read. Sometimes it is important to know the context of why Jesus is telling the parable. This parable follows a moment when Jesus is teaching about humbly inviting the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind — for these cannot repay you. So is this parable about the feast demonstrating God as the host? Or is this a parable teaching us how we are to invite into the church, where God's feast is always available and should freely be given to those who cannot repay?

Read: Luke 14:16-24 (and if you want, also read from the beginning of chapter 14)

Open your Bible and read through the passage. Once you have read through this passage, take three large deep breaths, read the passage a second time. Take note of what words jump out at you. What words do you need to look up for clarity of definition. Take three large deep breaths again. Read the passage one more time.

Seek:

When have you hosted an event that the responses from the list of invitees gave you despair because the invitees could not all attend?

What is the feast that the church has? How does our church make this feast available to those who cannot repay?

Who in our community would be compared to Jesus' list of "the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind" (v13)? How are we inviting them to the feast of the church?

Pray

Lord Jesus you are the host who provides an unending feast. Compel us to be like the servants who go out into the streets bringing in all who need a taste of your feast. In your holy name, we pray. Amen