

The Parable of the Great Supper (Luke 14:15-24)

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¹⁵ Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!”

¹⁶ Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, ¹⁷ and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ ¹⁸ But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ ¹⁹ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ ²⁰ Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ ²¹ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ ²² And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ ²³ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’ ”

The Point of the Parable

- Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings.
 - Jesus preached in parables to separate those who earnestly desire truth from those who do not (**Mark 10:11-12; Matt. 13:12-15**).
- Jesus taught this parable in the home of a chief Pharisee (**Luke 14:1**).
- This parable pictures:
 - A great supper is prepared and many are invited to the banquet, but everyone makes excuses to not attend (**v.16-18**).
- The great supper has been prepared and all are invited to attend, but not all will take advantage of the invitation which has been extended to them.

Unacceptable Excuses

- All who were invited made excuses to avoid attending the great supper (**v.18**).
 - The first excuse put possessions over attending the supper (**v.18**).
 - The second excuse put work over attending the supper (**v.19**).
 - The third excuse put family over attending the supper (**v.20**).
 - None of these excuses are acceptable (**Matt. 6:19-21; Mark 1:16-18; John 6:27; Luke 14:25-33; Matt. 19:29**).
 - There is no acceptable excuse for rejecting the Master's invitation (**Matt. 6:33; Rom. 1:18-20**).
- When informed of these excuses, the master became angry (**v.21**).
 - We invoke the Master's anger when we reject His invitation today (**Nah. 1:2; Rom. 2:1-11, NIV; Eph. 5:6-8**).
 - Doesn't the Master have a right to be angry considering all the preparation that went into the supper? (**John 3:16-17; Eph. 1:3-12, 2:1-9, 3:11**)

Another Invitation

- After becoming angry, the master invited others to attend instead (**v.21-23**).
- The original invitees lost their opportunity to attend (**v.24**).
 - Given the immediate context and the audience to whom Jesus preached this parable, the primary application speaks to the Jews being offered salvation in Christ but rejecting the message, so God then extended the same invitation to the Gentiles (**Acts 13:42-54**)
- The master desired for his house to be filled (**v.23**).
 - Our Master's desire is the same (**2 Pet. 3:9-12; John 3:16; Rev. 22:17; 1 Tim. 2:3-4**).
 - It matters not your skin color, nationality, gender, etc. – simply accept the invitation (**Acts 10:34-43; Eph. 2:11-19**).
 - But remain humble even after accepting the invitation! (**Luke 14:7-11, 17:7-10**)
 - And make sure you invite others! (**Luke 14:13-14; 2 Cor. 5:11**)

Are You Willing to Accept the Invitation?

All Things Are Ready – Come to the Feast!