

July 29, 2018



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Parable of the Great Dinner Luke 14:15-24

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews for our understanding that God graciously invites unworthy people into His kingdom as revealed through His **Parable of the Great Dinner**. The **study's aim** is to understand we must answer God's call in His way. The **study's application** is to be prepared to heed the call of God to wherever He leads us.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

There are three parables in Luke 14, and the Lord told them all as He ate bread on the Sabbath at the home of one of the chief Pharisees (vs. 1). The stunning miracle of healing in verse 4 evidently silenced the assembled guests long enough for the Lord to make a point to them. The point was forcefully expressed through the parable of the great dinner (vss. 16-24). Although the Lord spoke about dinner invitations, manners, and etiquette, He was actually referencing a much more important and deeper truth. In the parable of the great dinner, God is represented as the inviter, beckoning many to come to his great supper, a supper that represents salvation and the kingdom of heaven. However, when pressed to come, many who received the invitation found all kinds of excuses not to do so. They spoke of land to inspect, oxen to test, and wives to attend to. These, of course, were not valid reasons but only weak excuses they used. There are many worldly excuses that people come up with to avoid responding to the invitation of the gospel. People often do not value God and His offer of salvation. They count it a small thing and look for any excuse to avoid it or dismiss it. Worldly things are much more urgent and important to them. In this parable, Jesus gave a warning about this. Someone who persists in doing this will find himself on the outside looking in and suffer eternal loss (Luke 14:24). That is where our text comes in. Our Heavenly Father is determined to fill up His kingdom. If some do not want to heed the invitation to enter, the Lord will turn to others. That is the meaning of the next development in the Lord's story. The great Inviter turned to the poor, the maimed, the halt, and the blind—all those who are usually overlooked. I had a seminary professor who used to say, "I think when I get to heaven I will be surprised by these three things: who is there, who is not there, and that I'm there!" The Lord was speaking about presumption. So many do not view God as the One to whom we all must give an account. God is not seen as someone we must please and before whom we must be humble. We can take Him, leave Him, or ignore Him if we want. It is tempting to presume in this way, but it is a grave miscalculation to do so. God deals justly with all men, and all men must seek Him on His terms. The only wise and safe course is to respond to the invitation and enter into the great dinner. For all of their religion, the Pharisees were a presumptuous group. They believed the Lord was speaking only to them and all others like them. Do not presume. Do not fail to humble yourself and respond to the gospel invitation of the Lord. There is no one who gets into God's kingdom by a merit badge. All must come through Christ. As we read such a powerful parable, it should reaffirm our own commitment to invite and compel men to come into the kingdom.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

The Bible tells of an important reunion dinner in heaven

ANSWER FOR THE WEEK:

Who is invited to this heavenly reunion dinner?

All those who belong to God's family will be there, "those who believe in [Jesus'] name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13).

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

(Rev 19:9 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Feb 13, 2010)

Series: Justice in the New Testament

UNIT: Paul Teaches about New Life in Christ

NEXT WEEK

God's Justice (Rom 2:1-12)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The Invitation is Extended (Luke 14:15-17)

Realize coming to God is a blessing not a right (15)

Coming to God is part of our duty (Luke 17:7-10)

It is not about our right to come to God, but about God's generosity (Matt 20:12-16)

Coming to God is all about God's mercy (Rom 9:14-16)

Coming to God is not about our righteousness (Isa 64:6)

Coming to God is not about repaying God (Ps 116:12-14)

Many are invited, but only a remnant accept (16)

Accepting God means entering through the narrow gate (Matt 7:13-14)

Many want to be in heaven, but all will not use the only way (Luke 13:23-24)

Only a remnant will come to God (Rom 9:27)

Those who come to God are a part of the remnant who have been chosen by grace (Rom 11:5)

Be prepared when called (17)

Be prepared to do good works (2 Tim 2:20-21)

Be prepared to give an answer for hope in God (1 Peter 3:15)

Be prepared because no one knows when Jesus will return (Matt 24:44)

Be prepared because the end time is nearer than we think (Rom 13:11-12)

Be prepared because the day of the Lord is coming (2 Peter 3:11-13)

The Invitation is Rejected (Luke 14:18-20)

Excuses show insincerity and misapplied priorities

Excuses started in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:8-12)

Moses gave the excuse that he couldn't talk (Ex 4:10-12)

Aaron gave the excuse of peer pressure (Ex 32:21-24)

Excuses make one unfit for service (Luke 9:59-62)

The Invitation is Broadened (Luke 14:21-24)

God desires all to come to Him (21)

Come to God because He wants everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)

Come to God because of His kindness (Rom 2:4)

Come to God because He wants all to be saved (1 Tim 2:2-4)

Come to God because He will give rest (Matt 11:28)

There is always room in heaven (22-23)

Room because there are many places available (John 14:2)

Room because for everyone who overcomes, God will provide a place in His heavenly temple (Rev 3:12)

Room because Jesus wants His people to be with Him (John 17:24)

Room because John saw a multitude that no one could count in heaven (Rev 7:9)

Room because Jesus has many sheep folds (John 10:14-16)

Only those who accept will make it to heaven (24)

Only those who accept because anyone who rejects Jesus will be condemned (John 12:48)

Only those who accept because Jesus is the only way (John 14:6)

Only those who accept because those that have not accepted Jesus will be outside the heavenly city (Rev 22:14-15)

Only those who accept because they are the only ones who have the inheritance of heaven (Rev 21:6-8)

Only those who accept because the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor 6:9-10)

Only those who accept because everyone who says Lord, Lord will not enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt 7:21)