

Luke 14:12-24

Preached at Kilby 2/3/23

Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.

¹³ But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: ¹⁴ And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

¹⁵ And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. (Rev 19:19 – marriage supper of the Lamb)

¹⁶ Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: ¹⁷ And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

¹⁸ And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. ¹⁹ And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. ²⁰ And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

Jesus is eating with the Pharisees. He advises the host, the next time he hosts a dinner, if he really wants to be blessed, don't invite those who are your friends and relatives who are able to pay you back. Instead, if you really want to be blessed, invite the less fortunate or folks who are not in a good state. They can't pay you back today, but God will reward you at the resurrection. That is a much greater reward.

Live today for the resurrection tomorrow. We when we are good to those less fortunate, God will pay you back.

Someone at the feast makes a statement, "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the Kingdom..."

Jesus responds with a parable. Notice, Jesus didn't say that the man was incorrect with his statement. Instead, he expands upon it with a parable to show just who they are who will one day eat bread in the Kingdom. Who are they?

The parable. The invitation goes out after the great supper is ready. It is supper time and it is time to show up.

Notice who the invitation goes out to. It appears he invites those you would expect to be invited. They were invited twice. The first invitation was to let them know he was preparing something for them, the next invite was to tell them everything is ready

They are not poor but have something of substance. They have money because they have made purchases. They decline the invitation because they have better things to do in their minds.

Let's break down the characters and who they may represent in the story.

- A certain man making a great feast – God is the man, He desires many to come to His table.
- The supper – this represents the Lord's Supper both now and at the resurrection.
- The servant – works for the man and invites others to come. This should be every believer who has accepted Christ and now work for the Man.
- The first group of invitees – this is obviously those who know the man and have a relationship with him. It could represent the Pharisees and Jews who received the first invite and now the second invite that it the supper is ready. Today it could represent those who have a relationship with God, but they are now entangled with their new pursuits which are also now more important than the invitation from the man. The Lord is ready to move but they are not.

You would expect these folks to be appreciative of the relationship and be honored to come.

²¹ So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. 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 hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. ²² And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

²³ And the lord said unto 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 unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

Why was the man angry? Because of the response, excuses, and rejection of his invited guests. Too good to show up and show their appreciation for the man's gift. Too busy to commune with the man.

In his anger, he tells his servant to invite the less fortunate and less desirable folks to the dinner.

Unlike the first group, they show up to attend and enjoy the fellowship meal. They act on and accept the invitation.

Servant says there is still more room to invite others to this great dinner. Go throughout the countryside and compel and urge others to attend. The objective is to fill the house with guests.

None of the first guests will be allowed to enjoy the man's supper.

What was the message in this story.

It points to the Jews who will reject him but that the Gentiles will be invited into the Kingdom. Perhaps this parable is in response to the man's statement about those being blessed who eat bread in the



Kingdom and shows who we think will be eating may not, but instead unlikely folks will be blessed like that. The first shall be last and the last first.

What does it mean for us today? Put yourself in the story. Are you the first group who have already received the invitation because of your new relationship in Christ?

Are you the second group, who have received the invitation to attend? The one's who are in need because you're poor, you have a funny walk, can't walk straight. The ones who live in darkness and can't see hope, or light, etc.

Are you in the third group who have received the invitation? Not a society reject but way out there in your belief. Far from believing in God's gift through Christ.

Are you a servant who invites and compels others to come to the Lord's supper?

The invitation is given to everyone, don't miss this opportunity.

- If you already know the man, He will invite you to make Him a priority and commune with Him. Is there any good excuse for rejecting His invitation and what He wants to do for you? There is a next step after your salvation, it is making Him first.
- If you are broken and in need, messed up in life, the invitation is coming, you will be blessed if you accept.
- If have never heard of the man and don't know Him, don't miss the invitation to share in His reward and be blessed.

He still compels you to come. He still sends His servants to compel you to come. He still is preparing something great and good for your benefit, won't you come?

What's your excuse?