

Parable of the Great Banquet

Luke 14¹⁵⁻²⁴ (cf. Matt. 22²⁻²⁴)

Warm Up Question(s) – Choose one

- Did you ever skip school (or work) and make up an excuse to get out of going? What excuse(s) did you use?
- What is the best banquet or party you can recall attending? Why do you think you were invited and how did you feel about being invited?

Cultural Background

The idea of a sacred meal with God is deeply embedded in the Old Testament. As background to today's parable read Isaiah 25:6-9 and take note of who Isaiah thought the banquet was for.

Discovering the Word

- 1) **Read Luke 14:15-24.** Who was with Jesus and what were they doing when Jesus told this parable (v.1, 15)? What do you think the tone or atmosphere in the room was like before he told it?
- 2) The mention of the resurrection (v.14) leads one of the dinner guests to express the common Jewish sentiment found in verse 15. What do you think the great banquet represents (cf. Luke 13²⁹; Isa. 25⁶⁻⁸; Mt. 22²) and why?
- 3) Do you think Jesus' parable affirmed the person's comment or challenged? How so?
- 4) What excuses did the invited guest give for not coming to the banquet when it was ready? How valid do think their excuses were and how would you feel if you were the host?
- 5) What, if anything, do you find surprising about the host's response? How would you feel as one of "the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame" (v.21) invited and brought in to the banquet?
- 6) Why is the servant sent even farther afield to invite others (v.23)? Why might the second and third groups invited require significant urging ("bring"—v.21; "compel"—v.23) to come?
- 7) How does Jesus' parable challenge and subvert what the Jewish leaders believed and taught about those who would be present at the great Messianic/heavenly banquet?
- 8) Who is will be excluded from the great Messianic banquet and why (cf. Matt. 22¹²⁻¹³)?
- 9) From your experience, what excuses do people make to avoid "feasting" with Jesus? What might help people overcome their hesitation? What helped you overcome your hesitation?
- 10) What is the lesson of this passage for you?