

# The Parable of the Feast

## The first group he spoke to -- chose the places of honor (Jesus - teachable moments)

Luk 14:1-35 ESV One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully..... 7 Now he told a parable to those who were invited, **when he noticed how they chose the places of honor**, saying to them,

### →Jesus calls them from self promotion, self enrichment & self-serving to humility

8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, 9 and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, **go and sit in the lowest place**, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. 11 **For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**"

## The 2nd person -- perhaps he was networking as a way to seeking repayment

12 He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, **do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors**, lest they also invite you in return and **you be repaid**."

### →Jesus called him to look beyond the personal benefit - do it for the sake of the kingdom

13 But when you give a feast, **invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you**. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

## The 3rd man seemed excited that HE WAS INCLUDED in the blessing of eating bread in the kingdom

15 When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, "**Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!**"

### →Jesus taught him to look beyond himself and He gives him a glimpse into the heart of God "to include many"

16 But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and **invited many**. 17 And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, '**Come, for everything is now ready.**' 18 But they all alike began to make **excuses**. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please **have me excused.**' 19 And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please **have me excused.**' 20 And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore **I cannot come.**' 21 So the servant came and reported these things to his master.

- "Wow I am really blessed - focused on self" -- there is a blessing, but so many will not come
- A man [God] gave a great banquet and **invited many and made ready**
- Excuses (Possessions - My Will - My Relationships)

## How did the master respond to the excuses? - more insight to the heart of God

Then the master of the house **became angry** and said to his servant, '**Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.**' 22 And the servant said, 'Sir,

what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' 23 And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and **compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.** 24 For I tell you, **none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.**'"

- Became angry
- Bring them in from the streets (**poor crippled lame the blind** - the same people he told the master of the feast to invite)
- Go to the highways and hedges - **Compel them to come in** -- That my house may be filled

He calls them to the cost of discipleship - he is addressing the excuses he spoke about earlier for those who would not come to the feast (land, cattle a new wife)

### 1) That no relationship can take precedence over Jesus

25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, **he cannot be my disciple.**

### 2) That no plan or purpose of mine should stand above the will of God

27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me **cannot be my disciple.**

**Jesus is telling us what He is building (his church) and what he requires (true disciples described this way) - I am calling for radical commitment, but which of you would do the same (which of you would heal your son on the sabbath) -- don't think Jesus as strange to require this of us**

28 For **which of you**, [check out the first few vs - which of you would not do good on the sabbath?] desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

- You don't build unless you have enough to complete
- You don't go to war unless you determine the strength of your army
- Jesus does the same - to build his church, to fill his feast table takes a radical discipleship - this is what he calls us to

Somehow the distraction of all these "things" [all that we have] can dilute our saltiness

33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has **cannot be my disciple.** 34 "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? 35 It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

### SUMMARY

- So much of our life is self-serving, self-enriching and self-promoting, Jesus is calling us to promote his feast
- So many times our discipleship and our saltiness is diluted because we allow relationships, plans or possession to take precedent over the purpose of God

Luk 14:1-35 ESV One Sabbath, when **he went to dine** at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, **they were watching him carefully**. 2 And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. 3 And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" 4 But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. 5 And he said to them, "**Which of you**, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" 6 And they could not reply to these things.

- A lot of ministry took place at the dinner table
- He went even into places where he was being scrutinized
- **Which of you** -- was a way of helping them to have greater understanding of his words and actions

### **He spoke to those who were SELF-SEEKING, OR SELF-PROMOTING**

7 Now **he told a parable** to those who were invited, when **he noticed** how **they chose the places of honor**, saying to them, 8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, 9 and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. 10 But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. 11 *For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*"

- **Parable** Deut 6 - talk of them when you sit, talk, lie down or rise - Jesus always did this
- **Noticed** - Job 7:20 - Job called him the "Watcher of Men"
- He encouraged them toward humility

### **He spoke to the host - SELF-ENRICHING**

12 He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, **lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid**. 13 But when you give a feast, **invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind**, 14 and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For **you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.**"

- His focus was on those who could repay him - he was a networker
- Jesus turned his focus on those who could not repay - he turned his focus to eternal reward

### **He spoke to the SELF-ABSORBED**

15 When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!"

- He kinda gets it, but I wonder if his emphasis is "and I sure am glad I am one of them" - he is rejoicing for the "already blessed"
- Jesus turns his focus, and gives him a glimpse of the Heart of God

### **Jesus is hosting the greatest feast**

16 But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. 17 And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' 18 But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have **bought** a field, and I **must go out** and see it. Please have me excused.' 19 And another said, 'I **have bought** five yoke of oxen, and I **go to examine** them. Please have me excused.' 20 And another said, 'I have **married** a wife, and therefore I **cannot come.**' 21 So the servant came and reported these things to his master.

- In this feast Jesus was invited to, people were choosing the seats of honor - but in HIS feast they were making excuses (My Possession, My Responsibilities/how I spend my time, My Relationships)

### Jesus gives us more of an insight into His heart

Then the master of the house **became angry** and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in **the poor and crippled and blind and lame.**' 22 And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and **still there is room.**' 23 And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, **that my house may be filled.** 24 For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

- He was angry
- **Poor crippled blind and lame** - This is the same thing Jesus told the host - he is not looking for those who can repay him...he is giving them a gift
- **Still there is room - that my house may be filled**

### The parable is over -- now he brings about the application

25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, **he cannot be my disciple.**

1. **No relationship** can take precedence over **following Jesus** (excuse I have married a wife)

27 Whoever does not **bear his own cross** and come after me cannot be my disciple.

2. **No activity or responsibility** can take precedence over the **will of God** (Gethsemane - not my will, but yours - this is what the cross represents)

### FOR WHICH OF YOU

28 **For which of you**, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and **count the cost**, whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

- **FOR WHICH OF YOU** -- was a way of helping them to have greater understanding of his words and actions
- Just as they would never build a tower without counting the cost, or they would never take out an army that is unprepared to go against the enemy - JESUS IS DOING THE SAME
- Jesus is NOT JUST LOOKING TO GATHER A CROWD --- there was a crowd of people with him by this time
- He is winnowing the crowd by explaining the demands of what it means to follow him
- Just as you count the cost to build a tower, I cou

33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. 34 "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? 35 It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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