

Luke 13.31-14.24

The Most for the Least

7 from Small Church in S CA > COVENANT Small Christian College in TN

Brad > Low Budget > Kindly invited to live with College President & wife

Important Dinner at President's home > Donors, Church Leaders, Wealthy

Dr. Barnes got Brad to put on Coat and Tie for Big Event

Summer Evening – Southern Treat – Sweet Iced Tea – Soon Ice Melted

Dr. Barnes asked Brad to Refill ICE in People's Glass – No Problem

Mrs. Barnes Crystal Bowl filled with Ice > Like Casual Californian

Grabbed CUBES with Hands and Plunked them into People's Glasses

Great SHOCK Dr. Barnes shouted *"The TONGS, Bradley, the Tongs!"*

Jewish FEAST had Important RULES of Etiquette for Hosts and Guests to Follow

Social ORDER kept the SOCIETY Together > Follow SAME Rules & RESPECT

Luke > Numerous Times Jesus INVITED to HOMES for a MEAL

Each Time Jesus < Sticks HAND into the ICE BUCKET > BREAKS the RULES

Luke	Meal in Home of:	"Mistake" of Jesus
5.29-31	Levi, Tax Collector	Eats with tax collectors and sinners
7.36-39	Simon the Pharisee	Sinful woman wipes His feet with her hair and tears
11.37ff.	Pharisee	Does not wash properly, insulting words for host
14.1-24	Prominent Pharisee	Heals man with Dropsy, scolds host and guests

vs. 34,35 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

BEFORE Getting to TABLE > SAD LAMENT from Tender Heart of Lord Jesus

Geographic & Spiritual Focus of Luke > JERUSALEM – 90 X's (49 X's rest NT)

PROPHETIC – Very Words of 'BLESSING...' Will be Spoken on PALM Sunday

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" Luke 19.38

KINGDOM of God Come – Soon Door will CLOSE – STILL Time to REPENT
 Jesus PAUSES on Journey to Jerusalem Tells KINSMEN better HURRY & Come!
 TURNING Point in Luke > Away from Israel, Jesus will NOW Focus on Disciples

TWO SACRED Cows of 1st C JUDAISM: *Table Etiquette and Sabbath*

PILLARS of Religion and Culture > Clung to when became Roman COLONY

Ch 14 PERFECT Storm > Jesus TESTED in Both Key Areas – Sabbath Meal
 Jesus: ROCKS their World > SMASHES BOTH Sacred Cows at Once

Is He just IGNORANT COUNTRY BUMPKIN? UNCOUTH? NO MANNERS?

Did MAMA Mary FAIL to Teach FIRSTBORN Son any MANNERS?

Is that WHY we See Jesus HAND in the ICEBUCKET at Prestigious Dinner
 Parties?

NO! – FIRSTBORN Son is just DOING WHAT Mama said He Would DO

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud
 in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has
 lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich
 away empty. Luke 1.51-53

1. The Kingdom Come

TABLE is Favorite THEOLOGICAL Classroom for LUKE > 4th Meal So Far

DINNER Party NOT PRIVATE > Semi-Public // like a BLOCK PARTY

AISLE Along Walls OPEN for VISITORS to Come / Sit / Listen to Conversation

Jewish BANQUETS were Setting for MORAL INSTRUCTION: Guest TEACHER

TABLE > Will Eat ‘Bread of His Flesh’ and Drink ‘Wine of His Blood’

TABLE in EMMAUS > RISEN Jesus will OPEN Eyes and Hearts of 2 DISCIPLES

TABLE where RETURNING King will have WEDDING Celebration with BRIDE

SO more than RAUCOUS Ill-Mannered GUEST, KING Setting forth HIS Kingdom

a. For the Healed

v. 32 `I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow...

NUMEROUS Times in GOSPEL > REVERSES Effects of CURSE of SIN

RESTORES those Twisted by FALL > RELEASES those BOUND by DEVIL

SALVATION seen in RENEWED BODIES and REDEEMED SOULS

v. 1 One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

Sabbath Day HOSPITALITY > Chance to IMPRESS after Synagogue Service

INVITE Rabbi and PROMINENT People over for DINNER – GAIN POINTS!

Of Course FOOD PREPARED for all Guests the DAY BEFORE

INVITED Jesus NOT Primarily to FEED Him but to WATCH Him!

OPPRESSIVE THEOCRACY of 1st C ISRAEL // SHARIAH Law of CONTROL

v. 2 There in front of him was a man suffering from dropsy.

FIRST thing Jesus NOTICES is MAN in GREAT PAIN and NEED

Painful, UNSIGHTLY Condition > Result of LIVER, KIDNEY or HEART Trouble

TISSUES FILLED with WATER > SURPRISING Guest > See Not Want to EAT!

SIGN of God's JUDGMENT for SINS, Present DANGER of becoming UNCLEAN

BODY was FILLING UP with WATER & SAME TIME Had INSATIABLE Thirst

v. 3 Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?"



The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. Luke 6.7

Pharisees THOUGHT they CONTROLLED the Events > Jesus NOW Does
 TRICK Question: PURISTS – Answer ‘NO’ / No Healing ALLOWED – REST!
 PEOPLE – Answer ‘YES’ – Expect MERCY to be SHOWN to Man in PAIN
 NOT Sure how to Answer > So they DO NOT Answer > Better Safe than Sorry

Luke	Sabbath Healing by Jesus	Reaction
4.31-37	Demon cast Out	People amazed by Authority and Power
4.38-39	Simon's mother in law healed	She began to serve Jesus and disciples
6.8-11	Heals man with Shriveled Hand	Pharisees furious, plot Jesus' death
13.10-17	Crippled woman straightened	Leaders angry, people delighted
14.1-4	Healing man with dropsy	Angry Silence of Pharisees

v. 4 But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him away.

SABBATH was made for THIS POOR Man – Day for Healing, Life, Joy, Salvation
 TODAY – for MANY Christians – Lord's Day is for THEM – Not God or Others
 vs. 5,6 Then he asked them, "If one of you has a son or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull him out?" And they had nothing to say.

Trapped by the contradictions of their godless, merciless legalism, there was nothing the Pharisees could say.

Philip Ryken

Even TODAY many CHRISTIANS Love PETS more than PEOPLE

WORLDWIDE STATISTICS ...

6,571,497,332 People now live on Earth

1,200,000,000 People live on 23 cents a day

2,000,000,000 People have no electricity

80% of all people live in substandard housing

1,000,000,000 People are without safe drinking water

Every 16 seconds Someone dies of hunger

57,000,000 People died in 2006

10,500,000 Of these were children less than five years old

14,000,000 Children were orphaned because of HIV/AIDS

2,000,000 Children have died as a direct result of armed conflict during the last ten years

MEANWHILE ...

\$8,000,000,000.00 were spent on cosmetics in America in 2005

\$11,000,000,000.00 for ice cream in Europe

\$17,000,000,000.00 In the USA and Europe on pet food

\$105,000,000,000.00 For Alcohol in Europe

GREATEST SICKNESS > Heart of SIN > NO Love for SICK – NO GOOD News

b. For the Humble

v. 7 When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable:

Jesus was KEEN OBSERVER of HUMAN LIFE – Fishermen, Farmers, Servants
Here SEES Drama of PROUD Men SCRAMBLING for NOTORIETY & FAME

The Pharisees and scribes, despite all their god-talk and religious posturing, were a selfish, self-seeking, ambitious lot. Selfishness always reduces the importance of others and enlarges the importance of one's own life. Kent Hughes

vs. 8-11 "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

NOT just Lesson on Social ETIQUETTE: Danger of being ETERNALLY Humbled
NO JOCKEYING for POWER in KINGDOM of God > Greatest are LOWEST

Try not to become a man of success, but try to become a man of value.

Albert Einstein

Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence, and do not claim a place among great men; it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here," than for him to humiliate you before a nobleman. Proverbs 25.6,7

HUMAN Ego so GREAT Some TAKE LOWEST Seat as Means to be HONORED

The false humility that takes the lowest place is just as hateful to God as the pride that takes the highest place. Warren Wiersbe

POINT: Kingdom SOVEREIGN JURISDICTION of King – His Will and His Way

"This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed."
Simeon to Mary - Luke 2.34,35

...all God's children should be at a round table, with no sides or preferred seating position...representing a church in which women and men participate in full equality, carrying out pastoral and healing ministry as part of the priesthood of all believers.
Musimbi Kanyoro

c. For the Hospitable

v. 12 Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner...

Jesus to HOST: IDEAL > GENEROUS, FRIENDLY, SACRIFICES for Others

v. 12 ...do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid.

HOST Invited Guests for 2 Reasons: 1) PAYBACK for Previous INVITATION
2) Get them UNDER THEIR DEBT to be INVITED to FUTURE FEASTS

...world of Roman antiquity...social status and social stratification were vital considerations in the structuring of life...central to the political stability of the Empire was the ethics of reciprocity, a gift-and-obligation system that tied every person, from the emperor in Rome to the child in the most distant province, into an intricate web of social relations.
Joel Green

SOMETIMES Same Kind of TIT for TAT is Basis of CHURCH Hospitality

MEAL was POWER Play > GIVING only to GET > LOOKING OUT For # 1!!

All of us know the ugly face of generosity which binds and the demonic character of gifts with strings attached.
Fred Craddock

vs. 13,14 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

HOW STUPID! Why WASTE your INVITATION on those LOSERS!

What can they GIVE BACK to You – They have NOTHING to Offer in RETURN!

Jesus AFFIRMS THEOLOGY of Pharisees > Believed in RESURRECTION

RESURR. points to NEW ORDER – Seen NOW faintly in KINGDOM of God

WILL you be REPAID at RESURRECTION > Will Strangers Speak Up for You

HOSPITALITY is ONE EVIDENCE you will be REPAID at RESURRECTION

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people...Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’” Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you...The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’

Matthew 25.31-40

LIKE JESUS Own Example: v. 34 I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings

NO PAYBACK for MOMS or HENS – Just HARD WORK, Often Unappreciated

JESUS DEFINED His Mission: MANIFESTO of the MESSIAH

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed..."

Luke 4.18

The Church of Jesus Christ is the only society on earth that exists for the benefit of its non members.
Archbishop William Temple

d. For all Humanity

v. 15 When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

Common Technique in Luke > Voice from Crowd Interrupts Jesus' Sermon

TURNS the Message in Slightly DIFFERENT Direction > NEW IDEA

NERVOUS Interjection in TENSE Atmosphere of MEAL GONE WRONG!

DESPITE our DIFFERENCES > We'll be ALL TOGETHER in the END, Right?!

Will be SURPRISING WHO Does and Does NOT Make it to GOD'S Table

For God does not show favoritism.

Romans 2.11

vs. 16-20 Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

Parable of EXCUSES: HORTICULTURAL, AGRICULTURAL, MATRIMONIAL

Their excuses were not thin and empty...but God's offer has priority not simply over our worst but also over our best agendas. Those who attend do so not because there was nothing else to do but because the banquet was the best among attractive alternatives.
Fred Craddock

Perhaps GOOD Excuses, but NOT Good ENOUGH

Buy FIELD in DAYLIGHT > Banquet held at NIGHT

UNTESTED Oxen // Buying USED CAR – 5! – Without any TEST DRIVE

Jewish WEDDING > PLANNED Months in ADVANCE, Plenty of Time to Eat

An excuse has the skin of a reason but it is stuffed with a lie. Billy Sunday

JOLT of SHOCK in Jesus' Story > Host DISAPPOINTED but NOT DISSUADED

HIS Banquet HALL WILL be FILLED > Places PREPARED will be ENJOYED

PARABLE of GLOBAL Missions > GOD'S Love for WHOLE WORLD

"...you will see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last." Luke 13.29-30

vs. 21-24 "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

"'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'
"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines... The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. Isaiah 25.6,8

Have you LOST the WONDER of SALVATION? How AMAZING Grace is?

INVITED by HOLY God – CREATOR of Boundless Universe > Calls YOU!

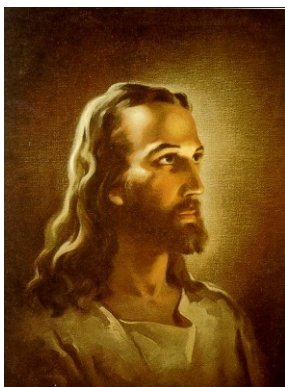
COME! – No Matter WHO you are, WHAT you have Done, WHERE you're From

COME! – With NO Money – No Religion – No Good Works – No PENANCE

COME! – Everything ALREADY Prepared – Table Served w/ Every Good Thing

For YOU! Your FAMILY, Your FRIENDS, EVERYONE you Know WELCOME!
 COME! All is PAID FOR! Paid for with INCALCULABLE Price of Jesus Blood
 That is what is SO AMAZING about GRACE – What are you WAITING FOR?!

2. Come to the King



Picture Painted by WARNER SALLMAN in 1940 >
 ½ BILLION Copies World
 ALERT – ATHLETIC – TANNED – NICE HAIR –
 NO SIGN of EMOTIONS

DIFFERENT from PORTRAIT of Jesus PAINTED by LUKE the
 EVANGELIST

Jesus Luke sees PASSIONATE – INTENSE – BUNDLE of EMOTIONS
 REJOICES with GREAT JOY when 70 Missioners Return VICTORIOUSLY
 ANGRY, WILD MAN when Father's House made a SHOPPING CENTER
 WEEPS Painful Sad TEARS at Grave of FRIEND Lazarus
 PRAYS with SUCH INTENSITY that BLOOD Flows with HIS SWEAT

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud
 cries and tears... Hebrew 5.7

No one MORE INTENSE EMOTIONAL Life than JESUS > Lived w/ PASSION
 FEARFUL Experience for ME to Stand before FRIENDLY CROWD Preach
 STRONG Words of Jesus > HE Spoke before those who wanted to KILL HIM!

a. Unstoppable

vs. 32,33 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day--for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

HARDEST Possible GOAL Imaginable > NEVER ANY HINT that he will FAIL
HUMANLY Speaking – EVERYTHING was AGAINST Jesus

RELIGIOUS Leaders

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, waiting to catch him in something he might say.

Luke 11.53,54

v. 1 ...house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately...Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies... Luke 20.19,20

POLITICAL Leaders

Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was going on. And he was perplexed, because some were saying that John had been raised from the dead...But Herod said, "I beheaded John. Who, then, is this I hear such things about?" And he tried to see him.

Luke 9.7,9

NO IDLE Threat > Herod ALREADY Killed BAPTIZER > Now the BAPTIZED!

That day Herod and Pilate became friends--before this they had been enemies.

Luke 23.12

WHAT DAY?? – Day CONSPIRED Together to EXECUTE Jesus

vs. 31,32 At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." He replied, "Go tell that fox...

LIKELY NOT Sincere Concern > Some do NOT Want him DEAD – just GONE!

ALREADY in ALLIANCE – Pharisees bring NEWS about HEROD

Jesus SENDS Pharisees to DELIVER his REPLY to Herod

FOX – 1st C version of WIMP – TREACHEROUS and COWARDLY, No Status

Neither GREAT Man nor STRAIGHT Man > Neither MAJESTY or HONOR

Jesus walked BRAVELY in LIGHT / Foxes did THIEVERY at NIGHT

NOTHING will STOP Jesus NOT EVEN DEATH > DEATH is His MISSION

Triumphant SHOUT of the CROSS “IT IS FINISHED!”

b. Willing

vs. 32,33 'I *will* drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I *will* reach my goal.' In any case, I *must* keep going today and tomorrow and the next day--for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

NUMBERS Himself with PROPHETS of God – FAITHFUL, MARTYRS

MAN on DIVINE MISSION > OBEDIENT to ETERNAL Covenant with Father

BEFORE Creation – Holy Conversation in Heaven – Father & Son in ETERNITY

"I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son ; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter ; you will dash them to pieces like pottery." Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. Psalm 2.6-12

PLAN is SETTLED FIRMLY in Heaven > Jesus is KING of KINGS

HEROD better WORRY – KISS the Son before HE RETURNS in WRATH

FIND Blessing in HIS REFUGE from HIS OWN WRATH

As God's agent Jesus must carry the divine message to Jerusalem, but Jerusalem kills those whom God sends; on account of this, Jerusalem itself is doomed.

Joel Green

c. Loving

GIVEN Incredibly HARD Assignment > MOST Difficult WORK of ALL TIME
BEAR Enormity of SIN, DEATH, HELL for HIS PEOPLE

WIN their ETERNAL REDEMPTION > FORGIVENESS, LIFE, HEAVEN

NO HINT that does WORK GRUDGINGLY – NEVER Mutters a COMPLAINT

“Do I have to WASH Dishes AGAIN!” – “Go to Church” – “Read Bible, Pray!!”

Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who *for the joy set before him* endured the cross...

Hebrews 12.2

JOY of the LORD was HIS STRENGTH > STRENGTH to SAVE His Beloved

v. 34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

MACHO Man Jesus shows us MOTHER HEART of God > HEN gathers Chicks

2 X's Jerusalem/Jerusalem > PAIN and PASSION // David over his LOST SON

The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you--O Absalom, my son, my son!"

2 Samuel 18.33

The love that Jesus had for Jerusalem is the model for our own compassion for lost sinners, especially in the city. When we see people living in rebellion against God – the drug traffickers, the drag queens, the gang members, the crooked businessmen, the corrupt politicians, and all the people like us who live for themselves – we usually want to push them as far away as possible. But Jesus was dying to draw them in by his grace, so that they could come and find salvation. Philip Ryken

God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.
1 Timothy 2.3,4

v. 23 "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.'

God gave us The Most for the Least / let us give The Most for the Least for Others

Luke 13

31. At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." 32. He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' 33. In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day--for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem! 34. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 35. Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

Luke 14

1. One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. 2. There in front of him was a man suffering from dropsy. 3. Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?" 4. But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him away. 5. Then he asked them, "If one of you has a son or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull him out?" 6. And they had nothing to say. 7. When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: 8. "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. 9. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. 10. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. 11. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." 12. Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. 13. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14. and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." 15. When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God." 16. Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. 17. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' 18. "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' 19. "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' 20. "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' 21. "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' 22. "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' 23. "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. 24. I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"