

Luke 14.1-24

The Banquet is Ready – No Excuses!

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

Brad > Low Budget > Kindly invited to live w College Prez & 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!*”

JESUS 2 Jerusalem – KING Coronated on Cross > Calling into Kingdom

4th Dinner Party / Sabbath @ Pharisees House > Jesus creates CONFLICT

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

Pillars of Religion & Culture > Clung to when became Roman Colony

Jewish Feast had Impt RULES of Etiquette for Hosts and Guests to Follow

Social ORDER kept Society Together > Follow Same Rules & Respect

Each Time Jesus < Sticks HAND into 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

Ch 14 Perfect Storm > ***Table Etiquette & Sabbath*** > SMASHES BOTH

Jesus: ROCKS their World > Both Sacred Cows at Once

Is He just Ignorant Country Bumpkin? UNCOUTH? NO MANNERS?

Why we See Jesus hand in Icebucket at Prestigious Dinner Parties?

4 Scenes around Lunch Table: Table is Favorite Theological Classroom

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

Aisle Along Walls Open for Visitors to Come/ Sit /Listen to Conversation

Jewish Banquets Setting for MORAL Instruction: Guest Teacher

1. What is the Point of Worship?

v1 “Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees”

Sabbath Day Hospitality > Chance to Impress after Synagogue Service

Invite Rabbi & Prominent People over for Dinner – GAIN POINTS!

Of Course - FOOD PREPARED for all Guests the DAY BEFORE

v. 1 “they were watching him carefully”/ *Jesus Derangement Syndrome*

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

1st thing Jesus Notices: Surprising Guest Man GREAT PAIN & NEED

v. 2 And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy.

Painful, Unsightly Condition: Liver, Kidney, or Heart Trouble

Tissues Filled w WATER > > See Not Want to EAT!

BODY was Filling UP w WATER & Same Time INSATIABLE Thirst

Pharisee = Sign God’s Judgment, Present Danger of becoming Unclean

Why is Dropsy Man there? Hospice Patient at Beach Party > Trap!



v. 3 Jesus to lawyers & Pharisees “Is it lawful to heal on Sabbath, or not?”

6.7 Pharisees & 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.

Pharisees THOT they Controlled Events > Jesus NOW Does

Trick Q: Legalist Answer ‘NO’ / People – Answer ‘YES’ – Expect Mercy

NOT Sure how Answer: So they 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 they remained silent. Then he took him & healed him & **sent him away**

Sabbath made for THIS Poor Man – Day for Healing, Life, Joy, Salvation

Today for Many Xtians: Lord's Day is for Them – Not God or Others

vs. 5 Jesus: "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?"

Even TODAY many CHRISTIANS Love PETS more than PEOPLE

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

Necessary to Heal on Sabbath? Required! King/Kingdom is Now HERE

Day of Healing / Ministry / Serving / Fellowship / Outreach > Others

TIME magazine "Over time Sunday has gone from a day we could do only a few things to the only day we can do whatever we want...not a day for doing what God wants, or what other people need"

Philip Ryken "The Lord's day is for the healthy to show mercy to the sick...for fathers to show mercy to the children by focusing on them...for families to show mercy to singles by welcoming them into their homes, and for the wealthy to show mercy to the poor...most of all a day to share the gospel with the lost, showing compassion...just like Jesus"

Lord's Day is for Serving God & Others – Call, Write, Visit

2. How Important are You?

v. 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 was Keen Observer of Human Life – Fishermen, Farmers, Servants

U-Shaped Table, Host in Center, Nearer Host the Best / Honored

Seats NOT Assigned – Choose Highest Seat you are Worthy Of

If HONORED Guest comes Late > You might be Moved Down for Them

Saw this in Africa & Asia – felt Strange to American values Equality

Jesus 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 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, 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. 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. 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

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

Jesus refers to FINAL Table – God’s Judgment: “If self admiration and exaltation can lead to disastrous consequences in human social settings, it will lead to even more disastrous results in the final judgment” D. Garland

Now Jesus critiques the Host for His Guest List

3. Do We Love who God Loves?

v. 12 He said man who 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.

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. Joel Green

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 invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,

People Not Welcome into Temple > Don't Deserve God's Grace??

HOW STUPID! Why WASTE your INVITATION on those LOSERS!

Wrong to have Friends over for Dinner > No? Exaggerating Point

Difference CIVILITY love for friends / CHARITY love for strangers

What is Motive? Are we doing it for Selves? Get something Return?

v. 14 and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Love as God loves Them > Givers are Repaid > Not Selfish

Are we doing it for Ourselves? What can they Give Back to You?

Follow Savior who Emptied Himself > God who became Man

Man who Died on Cross > Buried in Borrowed Tomb > Saves Unworthy

We've Nothing to Offer: God Empties Himself > Upside Down Kingdom

ZGC – 100 Nations > Clusters!! 10 Minutes w Place Never Been Before

Wylie Hall – Mix Up Seating / Sermon / Bible Reading / Prayer Needs

4. Is Your Excuse Good Enough?

This Point in Meal: Jesus OFFENDED Everyone: Pharisees, Guests, Host

Nervous / Awkward Moment / Man tries to Calm w Religious Slogan

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

Common in Luke > Voice from Crowd Interrupts Jesus' Sermon

Nervous Interjection in Tense Atmosphere of Meal Gone WRONG!

Despite our Differences: We'll be All Together in END, Right?!

Will be Surprising WHO Does & Does NOT Make it to GOD'S Table

False Assumption – Being Person / Jew / Church Member NOT Qualify

You must ANSWER the Call to Enter Banquet / 3 Invitations

1 Few Days Before – Save the Date – Facebook Invite

2 Day of Banquet – Double Check, Before Buy All Food, Coming?

3 Come Now, Ready! Kingdom has Come! – I cannot Come

All Made their RSVP but then became a NO SHOW!

Parable of Excuses: Horticultural, Agricultural, Matrimonial

v. 18-20 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.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’

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 w/ a lie. Billy Sunday

Mow the Lawn / Feed my Cat / Pay my Bills / Game on TV

Jesus says there is NO EXCUSE – Not Even Honeymoon!

Life Gets in the Way of Eternal Life > Meant to Come > Thought, Talked

Even Good Things get in the Way > What is your Excuse?

Plenty of Time! Do you Really!?

vs. 21 So the servant came and reported these things to his master. 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.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ 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. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

Master Says bring the Unloved > NO One is Excluded by God

If People NOT Come they have Excluded Themselves > INVITED!

Kingdom will not be Empty > FILLED > Whether you come or Not!

We cannot SAVE Ourselves, but we can DAMN Ourselves

HIS Banquet Hall will be Filled > Prepared Places will be Enjoyed

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

Ronald Reagan Gov of CA > letter from CA man Soldier in Vietnam
 Lived in Sacramento area, told Gov how much Missed Wife > Annivers
 Sent Card > Not Sure Reached? > Could please Call, say I Love Her!
 That Day Reagan left work Early > Bought Dozen Roses
 Drove their House > Knocked on Door > Gave flowers "Happy Anniv!"
 Invited In > Had Cup of Coffee > Talked of Husband & their Kids
 Phone Call from Gov > Would have been a Shock
 Roses and Visit > Beyond Wildest Imagination!

Have you Lost the Wonder of Salvation? How Amazing Grace is?

Table where Returning King will have Wedding Celeb w BRIDE

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! – ALL is READY – Table Served w/ Every Good Thing

YOU! Your Family, Your Friends, Everyone you Know - E Komo Mai!

Come! All Paid For! Paid for w Incalculable Price of Jesus Blood

"There is nothing wanting on God's part for our salvation...the fault is not on God's side...The Father is ready to receive all who come to Him by Christ. The Son is ready to cleanse all who call on Him by faith. The Spirit is ready to fill all who serve Jesus. There is an infinite willingness in God to save man, if man is only willing to be saved" J.C. Ryle