

Parables of the Guests

Luke 14:7-24



Parable Reminders

- A Parable is ***not*** a straightforward description of an event, just as it occurred or will occur.
- A Parable is a ***casting or placing side by side*** to a real event or ***to compare likeness or similitude*** to reveal the true meaning by interpretation .

Context: Parable of the Guests

Luke 14:3

IS IT 

 **LAWFUL?**

Is it Lawful to Heal on the Sabbath?

■ Luke 14:1-6

- Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely.
- Jesus was under constant observation. People wanted to know what He would do in different situations; forming opinions about Him (and His God).
- The issue did not appear to be about healing directly, but on healing on the Sabbath. His accuser believed that He worked on the Sabbath and violated God's command. Jesus' logic was simple and impossible to dispute; If it allowed to help animals on the Sabbath, how can you not help people, who are made in God's image.

Parable of the Guests

■ Luke 14:7-9

- So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places...
- At that time, it as a custom that the seating arrangement at a dinner showed a definite order of prestige or honor (often indicating one's standing in the community).
- Jesus reminded them of the shame that often comes with self-exaltation.
- When we allow others (especially God) to promote or lift us up, then we don't have the same danger of being exposed as someone who exalts themselves.



Applications: Parable of the Guests

■ Luke 14:7-9

- There are constant occasions in our lives, where we can display our own sense of self importance, pride and high opinion of ourselves.
- The Bible reminds us that we should not play the self-promotion game. We should do our work hard and do it for God, and let God raise us up. (James 4:10; I Peter 5:6)
- "For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south, but God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another." (Psalm 75:6-7).



Applications: Parable of the Guests

■ Luke 14:10-11

- When we are at the low place, we aren't there just to be noticed so we can go up higher.
- We should not be acting humble by letting everyone know we are acting humble (facial expressions, etc.).
- “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind, regard one another, as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4).



Applications: Parable of the Guests

■ Luke 14:10-11

- There is something wonderful in being content in whatever place God allows you to have. (I Timothy 6:6-11)
- It does not appear that Jesus is simply teaching us good manners, but a lifestyle of “lowliness of mind”, relative to ourselves.
- There is something wonderful about knowing that God has raised us up, instead of our raising ourselves up to prominence of some sort.
- If we choose the low place and act meek/humble, so that other can notice how humble we are, we are dangerous close to spiritual pride.



Parable of the Guest List

■ Luke 14:12-14

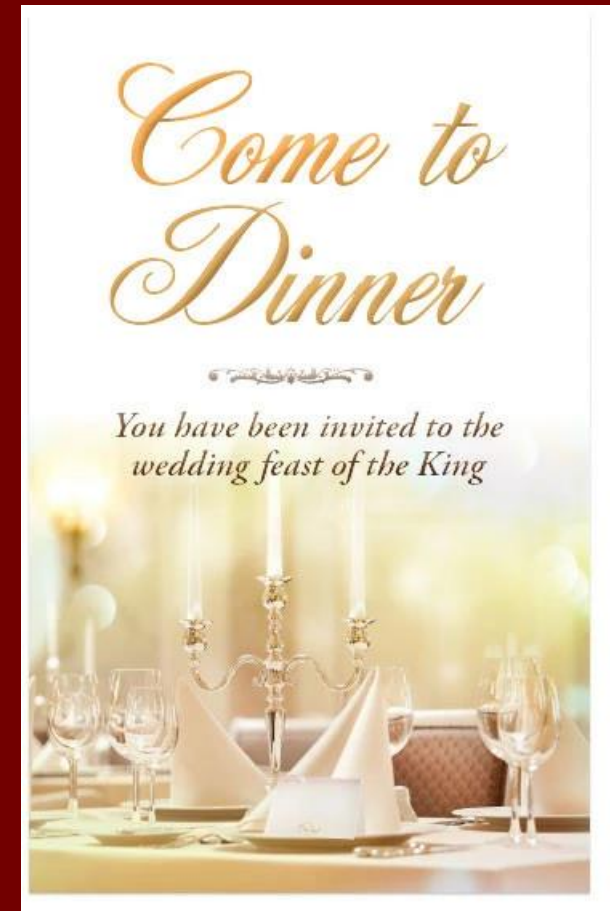
- Jesus warned His host about the danger of pride when it comes to the guest list.
- It appears that Jesus believed His host chose guests from a sense of exclusion and pride, lacking love to others. (I Peter 4:9)
- It is wrong to only associate with people who can advance us or give something to us. It is easy for us to limit our friends to a few people, instead of reaching out to others.
- “In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Act 20:35



Parable of the Banquet in God's Kingdom

■ Luke 14:15-24

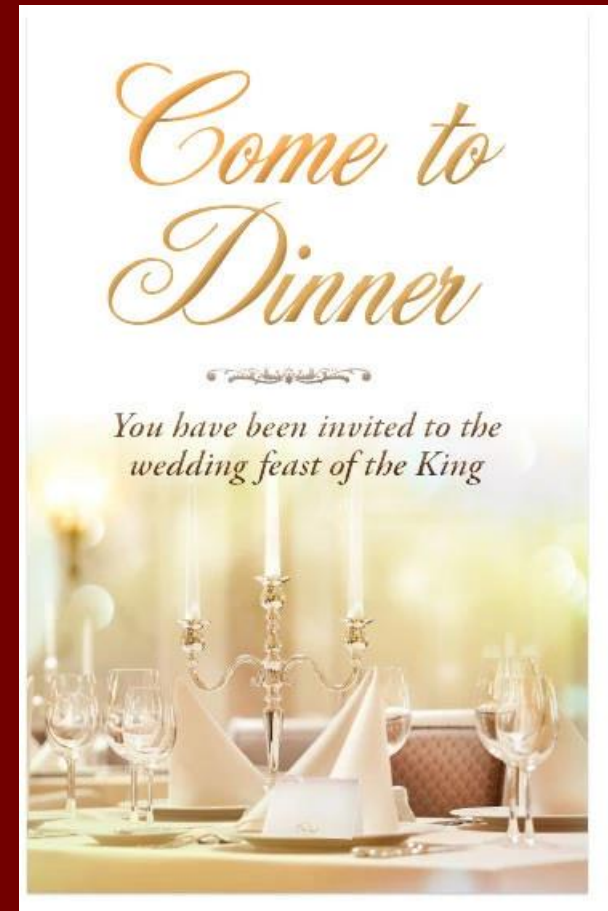
- **Revelation 19:9** – “...Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb...These are true words of God.”
 - **The parable Jesus appears to expose and corrects the ignorance of those who, in their pride, do not see their own true moral condition.**
 - **Invitations are given to guests, who accept the invitation, but when the actual time for the banquet came, they had various excuses to justify themselves and their desire to not attend.**



Parable of the Banquet in God's Kingdom

■ Luke 14:15-24

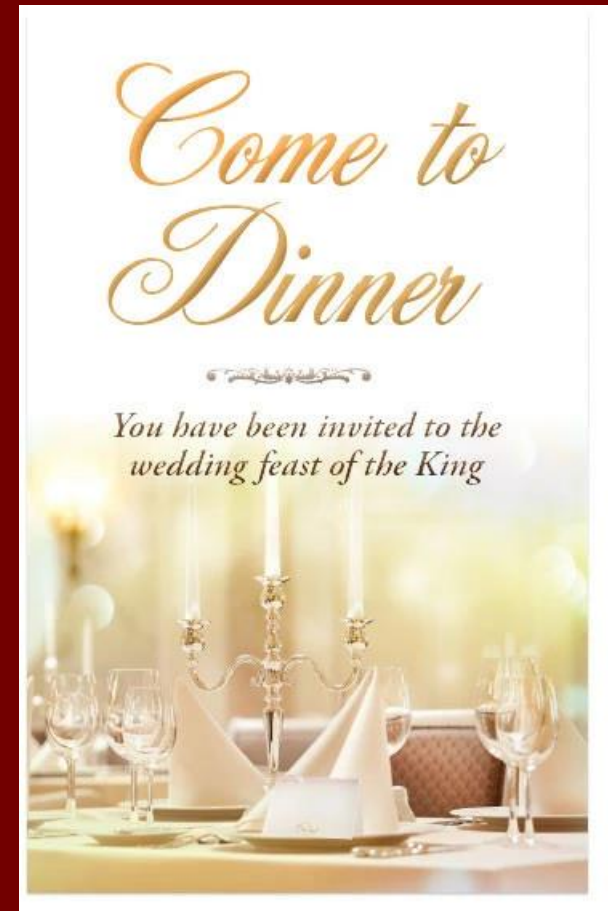
- **Revelation 19:9** – “...Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb...These are true words of God.”
 - The excuses are all different (purchased a piece of land, purchased livestock and married a wife), but they are really the same.
 - The excuses are fashioned for personal convenience.
 - The excuses put wealth (material items), work and domestic cares ahead of their relationship with God.



Parable of the Banquet in God's Kingdom

■ Luke 14:15-24

- **Revelation 19:9** – “...Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb...These are true words of God.”
 - The parable appears to show a progression to urgency as time grows short.
 - Some suggest, it is a progression of the invitation going to the Jews, then the Gentiles. It could be a stern warning to the Church, as time progresses and the condition of our relationship with God could be negatively affected by our choices.



Parable of the Guest and Banquet in God's Kingdom

■ Our Responsibility

- We must authentic disciples of Jesus Christ.**
- Though we enter into the Commitment of Faith, at baptism, God does not want to see us playing the “self promotion” game. He wants to promote us, through our genuine humility.**
- As we interact with others, our “guest list” must not be limited to those who can reciprocate our actions, but we must have be genuinely hospitable.**
- We must express appreciation for our invitation and not offer excuses to justify our personal conveniences, so that our desire for a strong and healthy relationship with God will remain, as time progresses, in our life, in this world.**

Group Discussion

