

THE GREAT FEAST Text: Lk 14:15–24 Inv. All things are ready

A Parable on Priorities

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1. There are many Opportunities that already passed / Dreams faded / Ships sailed
 2. There were many events of life we were never invited to...
 a seat at the Table of power / or fame / or incredible fortune
 3. But there is one invitation is still open—Still Waiting—An invitation of a lifetime!
 4. Some think it's too good to be true—but that's why it requires faith to enter
 5. YOU must take hold of the flame of faith—and never let it go
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I. THE PARABLE

A. A GREAT SUPPER

1. **How do you describe the joy of heaven in physical terms?**
 - a) A Parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning
 - b) So Jesus uses a parable to describe the invitation to enter the joy of heaven
2. **The Kingdom of God often likened unto a great feast**
 - a) Referred to as a messianic banquet...
 - b) A Wedding Feast given by the King for the King's son (Matthew 22:2-3)
3. **It Pictures a Joyous Gathering of God's People**
 - a) Something to look forward to... (Luke 13:29; Matthew 8:11)
 - b) An incredible event at the end of time (Revelation 19:6–9)

B. THE INVITATION

1. **ALL THINGS ARE READY (v.17)**
 - a) In ancient times a King would send out an invitation... [a save the date /RSVP]
 then as the day was close—a second invitation went out...
 - b) All Things Are Ready—God has provided everything we need through the gospel...
 - c) The Gospel is not only the Invitation—it adds your name to the guest list!
 - d) When You Obey the Gospel—It puts your name in the Lamb's Book of Life—
 the Guest List for the Marriage Supper of the Kings Son
 - e) Everything has been prepared—all things are ready
2. **ALL PEOPLE ARE INVITED (v.21)**
 - a) The Invitation first went to the covenant people of God...
 - b) Jesus went first to His own—and His own received Him Not
 - c) So the invitation then went to all people / of all classes / all races / all nations /
 all languages and people...
 - d) The Poor, the Blind, the Maimed and the Crippled — Everyone!
3. **AND THERE IS STILL ROOM! (v.22)**
 - a) How amazing that Everyone is invited and there is still room!
 - b) God wants the wedding feast filled and He keeps—Asking & Waiting & Watching
 - c) EVERYTHING is Ready — and EVERYONE is Invited!

C. THE EXCUSES

1. I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO SEE (v.18)¹

- a) Why would he buy a field without looking at it?
- b) And the Property is not going anywhere—it will be there the next day
- c) But It is interesting that this first man has “bought a field,”
since Judas will later betray Jesus for money (Luke 22:5)
and the money was used to buy a field (Acts 1:18)²
- d) We live busy lives and there is always something else to see.
- e) Our Excuses have more to do with our heart than with our circumstances

2. I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO DO (v.19)

“I have just bought five yoke of oxen.” —Five Yoke is 5 Pairs...

- a) which in ancient times only a wealthy person could afford 10 oxen at a time
- b) **EX: Researchers have studied the Psychology of hoarding...**
- c) They believe it indicates that for some it's Easier to become attached to possessions
than it is to connect w/ people.
- d) Possessions become their friends basically / their safe place / their happy place
- e) I can Understand—but at WHAT POINT do your possessions POSSESS YOU?

3. I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO ENJOY (v.20)

“Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’

- a) Marriage is a relationship created by God—the two become one
- b) It is a blessing *from* God—not an excuse to *avoid* God.

But If You Want an Excuse—Any Excuse Will Do—it doesn't have to be a good one!

- From a spiritual perspective these excuses are shallow and weak...
- From a worldly perspective they make sense—this is what the world holds most important:
real estate, business, and family relations.
- If you've ever wondered why such a wonderful invitation is ignored—now you know

II. THE LESSONS

A. DO YOU THINK THE KING WAS FOOLED BY THIER EXCUSES? (v.16-21)

- 1. **Imagine all the planning, and the food and the preparation is all ready...**
But no one shows up—and all the food and work is for nothing
- 2. **None of the excuses that were made were in themselves wrong...**
 - a) It is not wrong to look at property
 - b) or check on something to be purchased
 - c) or get married...
- 3. **But These Excuses Are All Based on One Thing—SELF!**
 - a) I have something else to see / to do / to enjoy / I, I, I / Me, me, me,

¹ James Smith, Handfuls on Purpose

² Mark Black, Luke, College Press NIV Commentary

4. **Anything we put higher than God is an Idol—including Our SELF/Excuses**
 - a) Jim & Nadine were volunteers at the hospital and he said he invited a lady to church but she said: My parents made us go to church growing up and I told myself when I get older I'm never going to go to church b/c they made us...
 - b) Jim said: Yes, My parents made us take a bath every week and I told myself, when I get older I'm never going to bathe again b/c they made me

5. Your Faith has to Be Stronger than your Strongest Excuse.

Excuses will always be there—but opportunity will not.

It is Only when the excuses end—that hope begins!

B. THE GREATEST INVITATION OF ALL—IS GIVEN FOR ALL (v.21-23)

1. **He said, 'Compel them', convince them, persuade them in love, to enter in**
 - a) SOME don't think it's true—others think it's too good to be true.
 - b) SOME Don't Want to be told what to do—Others Want to know what to do
 - c) SOME Think Their Too Important—others think their not important enough
2. **WE ALL Need to be convinced that God Loves us—wants to save/forgive**
 - a) God wants His house filled! He wants us to be forgiven and saved!
3. **But He Will Not Force You to Love Him Against Your Will!**
 - a) He Said, 'Compel them'—not Coerce them!
4. **God gave the Invitation—and Jesus knocks at the door of your heart**

But the heart can only be opened from the inside (Revelation 3:20)

C. THE CELEBRATION WAS NOT CANCELLED OR POSTPONED... (v.24)

1. **It is here that Jesus steps through the parable and stands in His own majesty and authority... He no longer addresses a servant...**

a) "For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper." "
2. **Those first invited were not interested—but others took their place**
 - a) Like the Roman Centurion who humbly trusted Jesus the King (Matthew 8:11–12)
3. **The Marriage supper of the Lamb will happen whether we are there or not!**
 - a) The Invitation is Sent / The Preparations Are Made / But we have to respond!

CONCLUSION:

1. **There were many events of life we were never invited to...**
2. **But there is one invitation is still open—Still Waiting—An invitation of a lifetime!**
3. **Some think it's too good to be true—but that's why it requires faith to enter**
4. **Your Faith has to Be Stronger than your Strongest Excuse.**
5. **YOU must take hold of the flame of faith—and never let it go (Revelation 22:17)**
6. **It is a promise from our Lord who cannot lie! (John 14:1-3)**

"You are never too old to set a new goal or to dream a new dream" (C.S. Lewis)

But this not just a dream—it is a promise from God who created you to live with Him forever!

All Things are ready / All People Are Invited / And Still There is Room!