

# THE GREAT FEAST

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

*A Parable on Priorities*

*Bill Turner*

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

---

## 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)<sup>1</sup>

- 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)<sup>2</sup>
- 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,

---

<sup>1</sup> James Smith, Handfuls on Purpose

<sup>2</sup> 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!***