

## Sunday Service Sermons

**14 November 2021**

The Great Supper

Or: Guess who is not coming to dinner?

Text: Come for all things are ready. *Luke 14:17*

Setting: Jesus is at table on a Sabbath with a Pharisee in his house.

This was a prominent Pharisee who was being watched.

And Jesus was being tested.

Healing on the Sabbath was forbidden.

And a guest had dropsy.

Jesus asked if it was ok to rescue an animal in distress.

Next in this passage Jesus comments on how we are seated at table.

If we are allowed to place ourselves choose the lowest place and let the host seat you for to be at the place of honor and then be asked to go to a lower place is embarrassing.

Next Jesus explains to the host that it is better, as per the Kingdom of God, to ask those who cannot pay you back to come to the table.

For if you ask only those who can return the favor then you have received payment.

Then comes this story of the banquet where the invited guests all have excuses why they cannot attend.

So the master goes to the alleys and brings in people who are poor, crippled, blind and lame, With still more room at the table they go into the country and bring in people so the table is full.

And these last words: "I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet"

If you think it is easy to get into heaven you do not know the New Testament.

Jesus is saying that if those God invites to heaven do not respond then he will bring in the ones we avoid.

And those who were invited first will not get a taste of heaven.

Pretty blunt and brutal.

My Grandfather claimed he sat by a man on a train who God had called many times and was now convinced that he was lost.

That he no longer qualified to enter into the Kingdom of heaven.

It is hard for us today to comprehend that this might be a possibility.

We have made God more sweet and compassionate than powerful and just.

It is written and it just might be!

Jesus is the keeper of the narrow gate and in His Name it opens unto all who ask.

Do you like banquets?

We all like good food.

What is a favorite food of yours?

God has prepared the very best for each of his people.

The person giving the banquet in this story is God.

The banquet is the provision God has made for our salvation.

This story focuses on the invitation and the excuses.

First the invitation.

In describing the invitation, Jesus uses what is sometimes called the journalistic approach.

Jesus answers six questions.

1. What? The invitation is from God to all people everywhere.

He wants everyone to accept his offer of salvation and deliverance from sin.

2. Who? The gospel is for everyone.

The gospel message is universal.

All are invited, the Jew and the Gentile, the rich and the poor, the city dweller and the country dweller, the businessperson and the field laborer.

3. Why? People need the Lord.

They are lost in sin, and they need a Savior.

The only way to be saved is to accept Jesus' invitation.

When? The time is now.

The words "ready", "quickly", and "compel" each indicate now.

5. Where? Jesus will save you wherever you are and under any circumstances.

6. How? You must accept the invitation by faith.

You must believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose on the third day, triumphing over sin and death.

In the invitation of Jesus we can see some great truths.

We are not saved by our own efforts.

We are saved by simply accepting God's invitation.

If we fail to respond in faith we are lost for eternity by our own choosing.

God's invitation is extended to everyone.

We are warned of the danger of missing God's blessings.

If we do not accept his invitation, we cannot possibly receive his blessings.

The excuses.

First note that these are excuses not reasons.

There is a clear indication here that the prospective guests did not want to accept the invitation.

The parable seems to imply that they had tentatively accepted the master's invitation; they had not previously declined.

This shows a lack of consideration for the master's preparations.

Also notice that the excuses are ridiculous.

Examine a field at night?

Can you imagine someone purchasing something as valuable as a piece of land without inspecting it first?

This is an absurd excuse and certainly not a reason.

The other excuses are equally ridiculous.

The excuses are transparently false.

Anyone who hears or reads about such alibis can see clearly that the person did not want to attend.

The refusal to go provoked God's wrath.

This wrath is righteous damnation.

You cannot receive blessings if you do not accept the invitation.

The damnation that results from failing to respond to God's invitation is eternal separation from God.

God's invitation is to each of us.

If we have not made Jesus Lord of all then we have some work to do.

If we have then we have a wonderful celebration coming at the Lord's banquet table set for us and all who are his.

We do not get in by knowing him, we get in by him knowing us.

100% sold out to Jesus is not just a saying, it is a way of life.

The way of life for those who follow "The Way".

The way Jesus came to demonstrate and pay for; then sending the power to live it.  
Praise God from whom all!