

The Great Invitation
Luke 14:12-24

- I. Introduction
 - a. Do you like to get invited to a party or gathering?
 - i. It is an honor
 - ii. An anticipated event
 - iii. Time with others
 - b. Do you like getting ready for a party or gathering?
 - i. It can be enjoyable, if all goes well
 - ii. And nothing interferes
 - iii. But getting ready is one of the hardest parts
 - iv. Sometimes its so hard to get ready that you would almost rather not go
 - 1. You're right in the middle of something and are in danger of running late
 - 2. The kids and their clothes can't be found
 - 3. The dog is underfoot, the keys are who knows where
 - 4. You got hardly any sleep the night before
 - 5. Staying at home sounds like a much better plan
 - c. The greatest invitation we will ever receive is to feast with God in His household. In Luke 14, Jesus tells the parable of the Great Supper to display the nature of this great invitation and those who respond to it.
- II. KEY THOUGHT: The offer of fellowship with God is the greatest invitation we will ever receive, and we must both accept it and share it with others.
- III. The Nature of the Invitation
 - a. What is offered
 - i. To commune with God Himself
 - ii. To taste of His bounty and blessings
 - iii. To celebrate His goodness and power
 - iv. To spend time with His other honored guests
 - b. Who it was given to
 - i. Choice guests of the most worthy positions
 - ii. Many were invited
- IV. The Nature of the Refusals
 - a. Who refused
 - i. Many or all of the initial invitees
 - b. Why the refusal
 - i. Business matters
 - ii. Family obligations
 - iii. Aren't these valid excuses?
 - 1. From a human perspective, yes
 - 2. But even when our guests have valid excuses don't we get upset if everyone cancels an appointment at the last minute?

3. And in the case of God's invitation, there really is no excuse that is valid to refuse to come to Him
- c. The effect
- i. Anger
 - ii. Insult
 - iii. Exclusion (v. 24)
 - iv. We do not want to be one of those who declined the Lord's invitation
 1. Some perhaps refused at the first invitation
 2. But some accept initially, but turn away later
 3. In any case, the result is to insult and anger the God Who made us
- V. The invitation sent again
- a. To the whole town
 - i. The main streets and the alleys
 1. Even the indigent and disabled
 - a. Blind – Like the man in John 9 who was cast out of the synagogue after being healed by Jesus and refusing to deny Him
 - b. Lame and Poor – Like the beggar who sat at the gate of the temple and who heard about Jesus from Peter and John in Acts 3
 2. Not choice dinner guests
 3. The people who the first guests would be offended to see there –
 - a. It has always offended some whom God will accept – If they are going to be part of this I want no part of it!
 - b. Luke 7:36-39 – the sinful woman
 - c. Luke 5:30-32 – tax-collectors and sinners
 - d. “I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”
 - ii. But those who the disciples are instructed to invite (14:12-14)
 1. We should be like God
 2. When was the last time you invited someone to your home who did not fall into one of the categories listed here?
 - a. Friend
 - b. Family
 - c. Rich neighbors
 3. I challenge you
 - a. First, if you are not exercising hospitality to find a way to do so, so you can be like your God and Savior
 - b. Second, if you are exercising hospitality to find a way to show hospitality to those who are the least likely to repay you,

- i. so you can be like your God and Savior
- ii. And so that your God and Savior will repay you at the resurrection.

b. Everywhere (v. 22-23)

- i. Leave the city
- ii. Go into the country – highways and hedges
- iii. Find anyone and get them here
- iv. It is a universal invitation

c. Who is the slave? Us

- i. We're not responsible for selecting who will be invited, the Lord is
- ii. He has not instructed us to call the most eligible to the feast
- iii. He has told us to call all
- iv. Can we say to him, It is done as you commanded?

VI. Conclusion

a. What about us? Since such a wonderful invitation has been offered

- i. Let us joyful accept it
- ii. Let us be prepared to participate – Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people
 - 1. We can come as we are
 - 2. But we can't stay as we are
- iii. Let us obediently invite whoever will hear the invitation

b. Invitation

- i. All things are ready – Come to the feast
- ii.