

The GREAT Banquet (and How to Dress Appropriately)

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: Have you ever been to a wedding reception and seen the "Head Table"? What's that about?

Q: How does one get invited to the "Head Table"?

Q: What's the difference between those at THAT table and those in attendance?

READ: Luke 14:7-11 "Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹ and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Q: So what's the "issue" Jesus is addressing?

Q: What's the solution?

Q: Is this hard...or easy? Discuss?

READ: Luke 14:12-14 "He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Q: What's the admonition to the "host" of this banquet? Why would Jesus say this?

Q: What's the blessing of giving to those who CAN'T repay? What does this mean?

Q: What does "you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just" mean?

READ: Luke 14:15 "When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!"

Q: What does this indicate about the people who "heard Him"? What did they understand?

READ: Luke 14:16-24 "But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. ¹⁷ And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' ¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.' ¹⁹ And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.' ²⁰ And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' ²¹ So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' ²² And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' ²³ And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' "

Q: What's the "issue" with those who were invited?

Q: What does their response tell you about the relationship?

Q: What is the desire of the Master?

Q: Verse 24, is a strong statement! What does it mean?

Q: What "excuses" often keep us from the MORE Jesus offers us?

Q: What does the "revised guest list" say about the Master?

Q: What earthly things got in the way from those who excuse themselves? How are we also vulnerable to these things?

Q: What might we do, to avoid being left out?

HOMEWORK:

- Don't forget our Daily Bible Reading Plan AND join the D.B.R.P. Facebook group!