

Parables of Luke (NCC Equip Class January-March 2017)

Session #3: January 29, 2017

“The Parable of the Great Supper”

(AKA: “A Crazy Story about the Kingdom that is Absolutely True”)

Luke 14:15-24

Introduction:

Context:

Explain the setting *where* Jesus told this parable: (14:1)

What instruction does Jesus give His fellow guests regarding their seat selections? (14:7-11)

What instruction does Jesus give His host regarding his guest selection? (14:12-14)

Explain the “system of reciprocity” that was observed by the Pharisees, Scribes, and many in Israel:

The System of Reciprocity was as both an obligation and an opportunity:

#1 – Obligation - _____

#2 – Opportunity - _____

IF one lived by a system of reciprocity, what kind of people *would* and *would not* get invited to a social gathering? *Why* and *why not*?

What “blessing” does one of the guests blurt out in Luke 14:15?

Broad Context:

Israel’s Rejection of God’s Kingdom and God’s King, Jesus Christ

Immediate Context:

1) Luke 14:1-14 – Christ’s instruction on social order and pride and humility

2) Luke 14:15 – Christ’s response to one of the guest’s “blessing”

The Parable of the Great Feast tells of a foolish decision made by foolish people. The story itself is intentionally absurd! But as ludicrous as it is, Christ's parable recounts a reality that was taking place in Israel!

The Story:

The man in Christ's parable is throwing a big dinner party, who would like to attend such an event?

Explain the "double invitation" system utilized in ancient times:

When the time of the event finally arrived, what was the response of the invited guests?

Explain how this is a ludicrous premise:

Explain what is lame about each excuse: (14:18-20):

Excuse #1 - _____

Excuse #2 - _____

Excuse #3 - _____

What message were these guests sending to their host by offering such flimsy excuses?

What was the host's reaction to these excuses? (14:21)

After the initial rejections, whom does the host invite? (14:21-23)

What is the slave supposed to do to get these final guests to attend? (14:23)

Point of the Parable:

Jesus Tells This Story Explaining to The Pharisees and Scribes How Outcastes and Gentiles Will Be Invited into the Kingdom of God And How The “Invited Guests” (the Jews) Will be Left Out - Because They Refused Repent and Thus Rejected God’s Invitation

I. The Invitation (15-17)

A) A Beatitude about the Kingdom (15)

Though what this guest says is true, explain what Christ says about Kingdom inclusion/exclusion from Luke 13:24-29:

B) An Invitation into the Kingdom (16-17)

Represents Who/What?

- The Rich Man / Host - _____
- The Celebration - _____
- The Initial Invited Guests - _____
- Poor / Outcastes - _____

II. The Invitation Declined (18-21a)

Explain how God had been “inviting Israel into the Kingdom” for the last 2000 years:

The 2 Invitations to the dinner might represent what two invitations from God to Israel?

Invitation #1 – _____

Invitation #2 - _____

Give examples of the types of lame excuses Israel gave during the time of Christ:

Like the guests unifying “in one accord” to reject the invitation – what unified Israel during the time of Christ?

- A) Lame Excuse #1 – “I’m Too Busy” (18)
- B) Lame Excuse #2 – “My Possessions Need to Be Maintained” (19)
- C) Lame Excuse #3 – “Family Responsibilities” (20)

List the 3 Categories of excuses:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

- D) The Report: “Everyone Has Something Better to Do” (21a)

What was the host’s reaction to the guests’ snub?

III. The Invitation Reissued (21b-23)

Whom does the host invite after the initial guests declined to attend?

To what kind of people did Jesus say to invite and demonstrate compassion and why?
(14:13-14)

What sort of people live along “highways” and “hedges”?

What sort of people will be found in God’s Kingdom and why?

Those That Think They are Worthy to be in the Kingdom Cannot Enter into the Kingdom. But Those That Understand That They are UNWORTHY Can - But Only by the Grace and Mercy of the King!

IV. The Invitation Denied (24)

Whom does Jesus seem to be addressing in v. 24?

Parable:

“The Parable of the Great Supper”

(AKA: “A Crazy Story about the Kingdom that is Absolutely True”)

Text: Luke 14:15-24

Broad Context:

Israel’s Rejection of God’s Kingdom and God’s King, Jesus Christ

Immediate Context:

- 1) Luke 14:1-14 – Christ’s instruction on social order and pride and humility
- 2) Luke 14:15 – Christ’s response to one of the guest’s “blessing”

Representations in the Parable:

- 1) Rich Man – God
- 2) The Big Dinner/Banquet – God’s Kingdom
- 3) The Initial Invited Guests – Proud Israel (Pharisees, Scribes, and the Proud in Israel)
- 4) The Ultimate Invited Guests – Humble Outcastes (Humble Israel and Gentiles)

Point of the Parable:

Jesus Tells This Story Explaining to The Pharisees and Scribes How Outcastes and Gentiles Will Be Invited into the Kingdom of God And How The “Invited Guests” (the Jews) Will be Left Out - Because They Refused Repent and Thus Rejected God’s Invitation

Application:

Those That Think They are Worthy to be in the Kingdom Cannot Enter into the Kingdom. But Those That Understand That They are UNWORTHY Can - But Only by The Grace and Mercy of the King!