

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ July 24, 2011



“What’s Your Excuse?”

Luke 14:15-24



KNOWING GOD

Read **Luke 14:15-24**. In this custom, if a person accepted the first invitation but declined the second invitation given, this was considered a grave insult. Grave enough to be grounds for waging war. How did the host respond?

Read through each excuse that was given (v.18-20). What is ironic about each excuse? What did Jesus want to convey?

Jesus was at a Pharisee's house, giving His audience a firm truth that the feast is a genuinely free gift. It would never be possible for any guest to repay the Host. Why do you think Jesus was telling the Pharisee's this truth?



GROWING TOGETHER

Have you ever heard or even made up an excuse to get out of something? What was it (See **Matt. 5:37**)?

Seth mentioned 3 different excuses we often give God: we're too busy at work, too attached to our possessions, or too involved in our relationships. What excuse(s) have you given to God?

Throughout His ministry Jesus found many 'teachable moments' where He could share the gospel in meaningful ways. Are you aware of the different 'teachable moments' in your life? If so, what was one of them?



SERVING OTHERS

Read **Luke 14:1-14, 21-24**. How can we accept the outcasts in our community? What kinds of things can we do to get out of the 'Christian bubble'? How can we avoid cliques from happening within our church & Christian community?



IN YOUR FAMILY...

This passage deals with making God our top priority. With your family, write down some priorities you have and discuss what it looks like for God to be most important in your lives.

SERMON NOTES