

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

The Parable of the Great Feast in Luke 14:15-24

I. The Set-Up Luke 14:1-6, 15 (NLT)

One Sabbath day Jesus went to eat dinner in the home of a leader of the Pharisees, and the people were watching him closely. There was a man there whose arms and legs were swollen. Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in religious law, "Is it permitted in the law to heal people on the Sabbath day, or not?" When they refused to answer, Jesus touched the sick man and healed him and sent him away. Then he turned to them and said, "Which of you doesn't work on the Sabbath? If your son or your cow falls into a pit, don't you rush to get him out?" Again they could not answer. (Luke 14:1-6 NLT)

- A. Jesus exposed the false _____ and false _____ of his uppity hosts.
Hearing this, a man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, "What a blessing it will be to attend a banquet in the Kingdom of God!" (Luke 14:15 NLT)
- B. Jesus exposed the false _____ of some who were mistaken about their place in The kingdom. This man was apparently mistaken to think he had a reservation at the festivities described in Isaiah 25:6.
- C. Essentially, Jesus came to _____ the _____ and _____ the _____.

II. The Story Luke 14:16-24 (NLT)

Jesus replied with this story: "A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come, the banquet is ready.' But they all began making excuses. One said, 'I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I now have a wife, so I can't come.' "The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, 'Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' After the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.' So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.'"

- A. Why was the master angry? Each of these three excuses was exquisitely _____.
- B. Jesus was telling his immediate audience that, because the Gospel was rejected by the official Jewish religious leaders, the message would now go out to the Samaritans (Acts 8) and then to the Gentiles (Acts 10).
- C. The "banquet" is a picture of the _____ feast of the _____ in Rev. 19:6-9.

III. The Significance: How does this story apply to us?

- A. Don't settle for second best. When _____ things keep you from enjoying the _____ thing, then they become _____ things in your life.
- B. The Christian life is a _____, not a _____, and _____ is invited to come.
- C. We have the responsibility to invite _____ to the banquet,