

## Family Stories

*Come to the Banquet*  
Luke 14:15-24

- Our faith journey is a process
- The parables are our family stories about the process of faith

At its simplest, the parable is a metaphor or simile drawn from nature or common life, arresting the hearer by its vividness or strangeness, and leaving the mind in sufficient doubt about its precise application to tease it into active thought.

C. H. Dodd

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

Luke 14:1

## Setting the Scene

*Luke 14:1*

## Dining with a Pharisee

- Jesus is going to dine at a Pharisee's house – the inclusiveness of Jesus – eating with the 'enemy'
- Under the scrutiny of the religious establishment (v1) Jesus goes to dine on the Sabbath (v1)

## Under Scrutiny

- They are 'watching him closely' (v1)
- As a result, on his way to dinner, Jesus heals a man as a way of questioning their values (v2-6)

## Sayings on 'Table Fellowship'

- A parable on choosing the place of honour (v7-11)
- A saying on who to invite to your banquet (v12-14)
- A parable on responding to God's invitation of grace (v15-24)

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, 'Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!' Then Jesus said to him, 'Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, "Come; for everything is ready now." But they all alike began to make excuses.

The first said to him, "I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my apologies." Another said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my apologies." Another said, "I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come." So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Luke 14:15-21a

## The Invitation to the Banquet

Luke 14:15-21a

## A Pharisee's Intro

"Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God."

- A safe truism after Jesus' quizzical statement of inviting the marginalized to the table (v13)



### *A Double Invitation*

- The parable includes a double invitation to the table which was common to the day
- 'invited many' (v16)
- 'to those who had been invited' (v17)

### *Three Excuses for Not Coming*

1. Business – "I have bought a piece of land" (v18)
2. Possessions – "I have bought five yoke of oxen" (v19)
3. Relationships – "I have just been married" (v20)

### *Reasonable Excuses*

- Things have come up in between the two invitations
- Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, "Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame." (v21b)

### *Why Angry?*

- The 3 verbs – wanting, having, doing – should not overshadow being
- 'Being' – responding to the grace of God (the Creator) who desires to be in relationship with us

Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, "Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame." And the slave said, "Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room."

Then the master said to the slave, "Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner."

Luke 14:21b-24

## The Invitation of Grace

Luke 14:21b-24

## Invite the Poor

- The host tells the servant to bring in all you can from the poor (v21b)
- Everyone who would be thrilled to come
- All people who the first invitees would never associate with (v13)

## Invite the Stranger

- The hall is still not filled so the host says – invite even the strangers outside the town (v23)
- The emphasis is upon the host's gracious invitation

## The Question...

- Will we come to the banquet? or
- Do we keep making our own excuses?

## Going Forward

## Life with God is not Business as Usual

- There is a greater story going on which transcends our little lives
- Our life with God is more important than our daily schedule

## *Our Choices Matter*

- Do we respond to God's overtures or not?
- The great 'yes' or the barren 'no'

## *The Feast*

- The symbol of our faith is a feast – a great celebration
- Come to the party of life

## *Where are we in the Story?*

- A message to the religious today  
– are we seated at the table? (v24)