What Jesus Said
The Great Banquet
Sunday, March 17, 2024

Luke 14: 16-24 NIV

16 Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited
many guests. 17 At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those
who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' 18 "But they
all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field,
and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' 19 "Another said, 'I have just
bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please
excuse me.' 20 "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

21 "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner
of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into
the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the
blind and the lame.' 22 "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been
done, but there is still room.' 23 "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out
to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my
house will be full. 24 I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a
taste of my banquet.'"

1. **God's Invitation is Inclusive.**

2. **God's Invitation is FREE.**

3. **Receive His Invitation *(Attend the Banquet)*.**

Conclusion:

Jesus already paid for every seat at His banquet table. He is preparing the feast to celebrate with all who will receive Him. *Will you be there?*

Will you be a letter from Jesus telling others about His gracious invitation?

LIFE GROUP LESSON
The Great Banquet
Week of March 17, 2024 – March 23, 2024

Ice Breaker: Have you had people tell you they were coming to a gathering you prepared for, only to not show up? How did that feel? What did you do with all you prepared?

Read Luke 14: 16-24.

1. What big event was happening? (v.16)
2. What does the term "guests" imply? (v.16)
3. Could they buy their seat? Were they to bring a dish to pass?
4. Why must this gift be free? Read Ephesians 2: 8-9.
5. When the banquet was ready, what was the response? (v.18)
6. What were the excuses and what do they relate to today? (vs.18-20)
7. What excuses might people make today about church and a relationship with God? Why?
8. What are some you have used? What were you focusing on?
9. What was the response of the host? (v.21)
10. How does this relate to God's invitation to be with Him, enjoying His presence and gift of grace now? How might He feel when we reject Him and His invitation to enjoy time with Him?
11. What did the host do with all the food prepared? (v.21)
12. When one rejects God's offer, what does He do? Who are these people in v. 21?
13. What is Jesus making known to the Pharisees who felt they were in an elite club of the righteous? Read John 3:16, Romans 10:12-13.
14. Who else did the host send an invitation to? (v.23) Why?
15. Who are these people Jesus is referring to?
16. Why did these outcasts and Gentiles come to the banquet? Read John 6:35.
17. Who would not be sitting at the banquet table? (v.24) Who are those Jesus is referring to?
18. Read Isaiah 55:6. What are we to do? Is there a sense of urgency?
19. Read Revelation 22:17. What is the invitation? Who are the ones who will respond?

Point to ponder: Are you thirsty? Are you hungry? Jesus invites you to come and sit with Him at the banquet table. Enjoy the gift of His presence and Spirit with you daily. *Share this invitation of God's free grace with others so the seats are filled!*