

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Describe the best party you've ever been to. What made it memorable?

What the Text Says:

According to Jesus, who should we invite to our feasts and why?

Understanding:

Why might Jesus' advice about inviting the poor and disabled have been considered "economic suicide" in that culture?

Application:

How can we practice humility in our daily lives, especially in social or professional settings?

In what ways might you be living by the "law of reciprocity" that Jesus challenges in this parable?

Next Steps:

Think about your resources (home, skills, time, money, etc.). How could you use one of these this week to serve someone who can't "repay" you?

Are there any ways your definition of "hospitality" has been more informed by the world and less by the Gospel? How so?

Missional Living:

In what ways can your friendship community better embody the kind of generosity and inclusivity Jesus describes?

How can your community help one another practice Godly (or Biblical) hospitality?

Finally, what did this parable leave you to think about?

NOVEMBER 17, 2024

PARABLES

10: FEASTS AND WEALTH LUKE 14:1-14

TODAY'S VERSES:

Luke 14:1-14



10: FEASTS AND WEALTH LUKE 14:1-14

An important factor in the context of today's parable was Jesus' growing popularity and influence, which made certain religious leaders jealous. Jesus was invited to dinner at a religious leader's home on the Sabbath and put to a test: a crippled man was brought to Jesus—would He heal him on the holy day of rest? Jesus heals the man (and before they can get too offended) launches into a parable about a party and how people jockey for the best position rather than live in humility.

Most people see the Kingdom of God as a constraining set of rules. Heaven itself is either seen as the pleasure factory, where we get everything we want, or as some sort of eternal choir practice. Jesus tells this parable to show what God's Kingdom is like—a party! In the book of Revelation, we see a picture of heaven as a big wedding feast.

The point of the parable – Be humble. None of us deserve the high place at God's table. (We don't even deserve to be at the table.) The Gospel reminds us that Jesus, who did deserve the high place, took the low place for us. He took our place on the cross, suffering the penalty for our sin. He took the low place and offers us His place at God's table in exchange. To step into that high place must come in humility.

We don't want to live by the law of reciprocity. Why were we accepted at God's table? Because Jesus came to earth to rescue us. Jesus is attacking the idea of reciprocity. The most fundamental tenet of the Gospel is that you and I owed a debt we could never pay. God had to give us His grace *entirely* as a gift that cost the life of Jesus...and He did that gladly. Our ideas of reciprocity should be shattered and we should instead invest our lives in others because God first invested in us.

If your life were depicted as a party, who would be the "invited guests"? Too many of us are trying to live for ourselves with an occasional tip to God. Instead, we are to be pouring ourselves out and see how can God bless others through us along the way.

Do you practice Biblical "hospitality"? The word "hospitality" in the Bible means "to welcome the stranger." Hospitality is when, in addition to your friends, you invite others to hang out with you and your community so that they, too, start to become friends. WHY would we do this? **Because Christ has been generous to us.**
