



Title: **Compelling Others to Come**

Date: **April 10, 2022**

Scripture Text: **Luke 14:15-24**

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

In today's message we look at a passage which describes a compelling invitation to enjoy a relationship with Jesus Christ. There are two essential aspects of a compelling invitation: being convinced of the need and believing that Jesus is the only way to meet that need. In today's text, Jesus is using a parable to make His point about the invitation to have a relationship with Him. A parable is a story using an earthly example to make a heavenly point. Let's look at this parable and see what point Jesus is making.

### I. The Invitation (Luke 14:17)

The parable describes a banquet representing the Kingdom of God. The preparations have been made ready for the guests. The Master (God) issues the invitation to join Him at the banquet (Kingdom of God). The invitation is both *simple* and *urgent*. His message is "***Come***; for everything is ready ***now***."

- Some believe that they must 'get themselves ready' before accepting God's invitation. Why is that a problem?
- How might the simplicity of the invitation remove excuse from the servants not to be busy inviting?
- Why is it important to realize the urgency of the invitation?
  - What is the consequence for the individual who does not accept this simple and urgent invitation?

### II. The Rejection (Luke 14:18-20)

The initial set of invitees (representing the religious leadership of the day) were full of excuses for not attending the banquet. As a result, they missed the feast the Master had prepared. They were too wrapped up in their own circumstances and not willing to give them up to attend the banquet.

- What are some excuses people make today for not accepting God's invitation to be part of the Kingdom of God?
- What are examples of things/circumstances people get wrapped up in today that keeps them from *attending the banquet*?
- What motivates someone to reject God's invitation to the banquet?

## Morningside Church

If you have a need or a prayer request, contact the church office.

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### III. The Commission (Luke 14:21-23)

The Master's servant reports that none of the original invitees accepted His invitation. The Master responds by instructing His servant to go and "bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame". The servant did that and there was still room. The Master then directs the servant to go invite more to attend. He wanted His house to be full!

- What does it mean for the Master to want His house to be filled?
- What was the responsibility of the servant in filling His house?
- How did the servant fulfill his responsibility?
- Read [Matt. 28:18-20](#). What is our responsibility as a disciple of Jesus Christ?
- Describe practical ways we can fulfill our responsibility.

### IV. The Condemnation (Luke 14:24)

The parable concludes with a somber verdict on those who were first invited yet who made their excuses. There would be no second chance for them. They had squandered their opportunity and would not get another. Once again, we see Jesus pressing the urgency of the situation. God is gracious and will receive all who come to him, but people should not dawdle. Those first invited might not take up the invitation, but others would. God's purpose may be resisted, but it won't be overthrown.

"Oh, brothers and sisters, what a banquet that is! How great is the harmony and joy of those who eat at this heavenly table! They enjoy food that produces everlasting life, not that ordinary food which passes right on through the body. Who will be considered worthy to be in that group? Who is so blessed as to be called to and counted worthy of that divine feast? 'Blessed is he who will eat bread in your kingdom'" [\[v. 15\]](#).

Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria (296-373 A.D.)