



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: A Compelling Invitation

Date: October 19, 2025

Scripture Text: Luke 14:15-24

Notes:

When was the last time you were invited to a party? Did you go? What were the deciding factors for you attending? Were you sorry or pleased you went? In today's Bible passage, Jesus is attending a party put on by one of the local religious leaders, a Pharisee. In attendance are other religious leaders, all similar mindset, dressed similarly, all blended in. Pharisees did not appreciate being in the presence of the poor, blind, lame, or Gentiles. Jesus decides to take this opportunity by sharing a parable, taking a common experience and using it to teach a spiritual lesson. The lesson Jesus was teaching with this parable was that all are invited to be with Him. Where the Pharisees were only focused on those similar to their religious and social stature, Jesus was focused on everyone, regardless of stature. Let's look at the four points of this parable.

I. The Invitation (Luke 14:17)

Jesus shares His parable. It is about a man giving a banquet, and he has invited many. When the banquet was ready a servant was sent to make the announcement. In an age when people had no watches and time was fairly fluid, and when a banquet took a long time to prepare, the guests were allowed to go about their business until things were ready. This story symbolizes being invited to the messianic banquet in the future kingdom of God ([vs. 15](#)). Those who were initially invited (the religious leaders) all made excuses about why they could not attend.

- The invitation to the banquet was simple. "Come; for everything is ready now." How does this compare to Jesus' invitation to accept His free gift of salvation?
- The expectation for those invited was only to come. Attend the banquet. The host took care of everything else. When it comes to salvation through Christ, how is it like the expectations of the host of the banquet?
- What affect can hesitation have for those wanting to put off accepting Christ's free gift of salvation?

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

Jesus continues the parable by describing three people and their excuses for not attending the banquet. It is implied that the expectation was still for them to attend, given the master's response.



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- The first person was someone who had just bought a piece of land and needed to go and have a look at it.
 - Who would buy a piece of land without careful prior inspection. And if the man did this, there was no hurry. The field would be there tomorrow.
 - What would be a similar excuse today?
- The second person just bought 5 yoke of oxen and needed to try them out (test drive).
 - Who would buy oxen without first satisfying himself that they would do the job. And if he did, there was no hurry for his testing. The oxen would keep.
 - What would be a similar excuse today?
- The third just got married. He wasn't going to make it to the banquet.
 - Marriage certainly involves new obligations, but it does not cancel out other obligations, especially things of which due notice has been given.
 - What would be a similar excuse today?
- When was a time you made excuses to get out of an obligation?
- What is the consequence for making excuses for not accepting Christ's invitation for salvation?

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

The Head of the household sends his servant out to get all those who are willing to come. Then when his house is still not full, he sends the servant out to get more.

- Who does the servant get to come and attend?
- The servant is told to 'compel' them to come. That meant for him to do all within his power. When it comes to inviting others, do you try to *compel* them?
- Consider the role of the servant, diligently obeying and responding to his master. How well do you obey and respond to your master, Jesus Christ?
- How was the role of the servant pivotal to the master's plans?
- All the servant wanted was to please his master. How motivated are you to please Jesus?

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

The parable concludes with a somber verdict on those who were first invited and who made their excuses. There would not be a second chance. They had squandered their opportunity and would get no other. Once again, Jesus presses the urgency of the situation. God is gracious and will receive all who come to him, but people should not piddle the time. Those first invited might not accept the invitation, but others would, both Jew and Gentile. God's plan may be resisted, but it will not be defeated.