



An Invitation to Supper

Luke 14:16-24

- Overview of where we have been in the Gospel of Luke since Advent. Starting with the birth of Christ. Seeing Jesus' growth in wisdom and stature. The initiation of His ministry and the growth of His ministry.
- The teachings that He addressed are numerous and directly applicable to our lives.
- Luke told Theophilus that he compiled this account so that he may ***know the truth***.
Compiled together as part one in a two-volume set – the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts.
- Truth is not a relative concept. Truth is not something that changes depending on the circumstances or the people involved.
- Truth is rooted in the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. God's Word is truth, and everything else flows from that.

- There's a parable of Jesus recorded here in the middle of other parables that has to do with an invitation to supper – What is described here is a great feast. The context leading up to this is a conversation with the Pharisees about healing on the Sabbath.
- The Pharisees had been obsessed with keeping every letter of the law that they missed the whole heart of God's plan.
 - *Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.*
 - The Bible is a message of salvation because the heart of God is not just about truth, it's about people coming to know this truth.

Main Point: We should invite and compel others to experience the truth of the Gospel.

- VERSE 23
- Go and compel others to come in, so that my house will be filled.
- This is the plan of God – that all should come to know the Lord and be saved from their sin.

I. Dealing with excuses

- a. Notice the nature of these excuses.
 - i. Purchased a field and then said he needed to go inspect it.
 - ii. Bought five oxen and he needed to try them out.
 - iii. Got married and cannot come.
- b. They were not valid excuses. Probably not the best excuses that someone could have come up with.
- c. One of the more difficult aspects of the way things are in our society is that it seems many people are so focused on the temporal that they miss the importance of the eternal.

- d. How much time, energy, money, and efforts are put to things that won't last? How much of the eternal is neglected as a result?
- e. People come up with all sorts of reasons or excuses. Just as they would have done in this parable here. That seems to be the heart of the problem here as well. We are so tempted to focus on what is right in front of us.
- f. The Pharisees had the law and had obsessed so much to it that it became legalistic. There's an important balance here. This message of truth has always been a message of salvation.

II. The target of God's invitation

- a. Jesus makes it clear who He has come to seek and save.
- b. After the excuses, the master told his servant to go out and invite the poor and disabled.
- c. These are people who were not at the top of the social hierarchy in Jesus' day. But it's an important reminder for us today – you will never meet someone that isn't loved deeply by God.
- d. I like being around people who are humble enough to not think they're better than everybody else. I would rather be around people who are just regular folks.
- e. So much of our view of things is based on who we believe is worthy. Are people worthy of love or compassion? Are people worthy of the things they receive in life? Are people worthy of an invitation to a large supper?
- f. Are people worthy of salvation?
- g. People are not much different today than they were in Jesus' time. We tend to be selective in our invitations. A seat at the supper table is just one example.

h. But you can see the heart of God's plan here – He is invited all to come in – so that His house may be filled.

i. The heart of God is for all people.

III. The invitation is open

a. This one of the clearest stories in scripture regarding God's desire for others to come to know Him in salvation.

b. At times, we may be tempted to worry ourselves with whether or not we have been forgotten or overlooked.

c. The last thing we like to hear is that someone else was invited to a feast or party, and we were left out.

d. Make no mistake about it – Jesus is inviting us to come and eat.

e. This is His feast, so we come by His terms. But His desire is that all would come.

f. Compel them to come in.

i. What's clear from reading other passages in the NT use this term – it means to exert pressure or to feel greatly motivated to do something.

ii. We can't force anyone to accept the truth – but never forget that the Holy Spirit is at work.