

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#57 – “An Unlikely Invitation” – Luke 14:12-24

I. Introduction

- A. An unexpected invitation – Examples
- B. Today’s Text: Luke 14:12-24

II. Exposition

- A. Luke 14:12-14
 - 1. Still at the house of a Pharisee.
 - 2. People desired the best seats.
 - 3. Reciprocity was central to the Pharisee’s ethics.
 - 4. First Century outsiders once again featured by Luke
 - a. The people of “you scratch my back and I will scratch yours.”
 - b. Kent Hughes
 - 1. Lev. 19:18
- B. Luke 14:15
 - 1. An uncomfortable dinner party.
 - 2. Eternal banquet is in view – Isaiah 25:6-9
 - 3. Another parable utilized – There are five parts.
- C. Luke 14:16-17 – Part One
 - 1. Custom of the day.
 - a. Invitation had two parts.
 - b. Not as clock conscious.
 - 1. Experience in Colombia.
 - 2. Interpreting the parable.
 - a. God is host.
 - b. Banquet is the kingdom.
 - c. The many invited is Israel or religious leaders of Israel.

D. Luke 14:18-20 – Part Two

- 1. Discourteous rejection.
- 2. Now the excuses – why they would not attend.
- 3. Leon Morrice
- 4. Philip Ryken
- 5. No intention of coming.
 - a. There was never a desire to come to Jesus.

E. Luke 14:21-22 – Part Three

- 1. Anger on the part of the Master.
- 2. Now a wider invitation.
 - a. Poor, crippled, blind, and lame
 - b. Physically disabled – barred from temple service.
 - 1. Lev. 21:19-23

F. Luke 14:23 – Part Four

- 1. Now an even wider invitation to the gentile nations, too.
 - a. Romans 1:16; John 12:32
- 2. The invitation went to the unlikely.

G. Luke 14:24 – Part Five

- 1. The climax.
- 2. Note the use of the first person.

III. Points for Reflection

- A. Many have received the invitation and given assent. They talk about heaven and are convinced they deserve a better place. But talk is cheap!
- B. We must live with the tension of living on the earth, but not focusing too greatly on earthly things.
- C. Only God’s power can enable those who hear the invitation to respond with heartfelt affirmation.