

## Insights from Luke

#57: "An Unlikely Invitation"

Luke 14:12-24

### Luke 14:12-14

“<sup>12</sup> And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup> and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’”

### Leviticus 19:18

“<sup>18</sup> You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.”

### Luke 14:15

“<sup>15</sup> When one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, ‘Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!’”

### It has five major sections.

1. The generous invitation:  
Luke 14:16-17
2. A discourteous rejection:  
Luke 14:18-20
3. A broader invitation with means to attend:  
Luke 14:21
4. A persuasive exhortation:  
Luke 14:22-23
5. A final sober word:  
Luke 14:24

### **Part I of the Parable: The Generous Invitation**

### Luke 14:16-17

“<sup>16</sup> But He said to him, ‘A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; <sup>17</sup> and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’”

**Part II of the Parable:  
The Discourteous Rejection**

**Luke 14:18-20**

“<sup>18</sup> But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.’ <sup>19</sup> Another one said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.’ <sup>20</sup> Another one said, ‘I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.’”

**Part III of the Parable:  
The Broader Invitation with Means to Attend**

**Luke 14:21-22**

“<sup>21</sup> And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, “Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.” <sup>22</sup> And the slave said, “Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.””

**Part IV of the Parable:  
A Persuasive Exhortation**

**Luke 14:23**

“<sup>23</sup> And the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled.’”

**Acts 13:46**

“<sup>46</sup> Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, ‘It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.”

**Acts 18:6**

“<sup>6</sup> But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, ‘Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

**Acts 28:23-28**

“<sup>23</sup> When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening. <sup>24</sup> Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe. <sup>25</sup> And when they did not agree with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one parting word, ‘The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, <sup>26</sup> saying,

“Go to this people and say, ‘You will keep on hearing, but will not understand, and you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; <sup>27</sup> For the heart of this people has become dull, and with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes, otherwise they might see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, and I would heal them.’”  
“<sup>28</sup> Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen.”

**Part V of the Parable:  
A Final Sober Word**

**Luke 14:24**

“<sup>24</sup> For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.”

**Many have received the invitation  
and given assent.**

**They talk about heaven  
and are convinced  
they deserve a better place.**

**But talk is cheap!**

This is the vacation excuse.

This is the material excuse.

This is the family is church excuse.

**We must live with the tension of  
living on the earth,  
but not focusing too greatly on  
earthly things.**

**Only God's power can enable those who hear the invitation to respond with heartfelt affirmation.**

**Luke 14:23**

“<sup>23</sup> And the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled.’”

**John 3:3**

“<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”

**John 3:5**

“<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.’”

**Titus 3:5**

“<sup>5</sup> He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”

**I Peter 1:3**

“<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

**Deuteronomy 30:6**

“<sup>6</sup> Moreover the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.”

**Ezekiel 36:26-27**

“<sup>26</sup> Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.”

**Ephesians 2:5**

“<sup>5</sup> Even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).”

**Colossians 2:13**

“<sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions.”