

The Parable Of The Great Banquet

“When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, ‘Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.’” (Luke 14:15)

While Jesus was invited to a banquet in one of the Pharisees home He gave certain teaching about humility and how to humble down by taking the seat of least prominent when someone is inviting you (Read **Luke 14:7-11** in your bible). And then He went further and gave teaching about whom to invite and whom not to invite when you give a banquet, ¹² *Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” (Luke 14:12-14)*

With the above word of God Jesus was pointing to two types of invitations and as the following:-

1- Worldly invitations: Where the focus is on the people themselves, and how much they do their best to show off in order to receive the honour and the approval of men. Here Jesus recommend not to invite friends, brothers, relatives, or rich neighbors, because you will honour them and spend on them so that later on they will spend on you and honour you. And in such practice the focus is self glorification and not about God and His word and commands.

2- God’s Kingdom invitation: Where the focus is to invite people and spend on them in order to bring them to God and teach them to do His will. Therefore Jesus recommends that if we have resources and want to do a banquet then we ought to invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. And of course the crippled, the lame and the blind they will not be able to come to us, so if we want to invite them then we need to go to them. And when we go to them we need to share with them not only the material things that God had blessed us with but above all the Word of God, the gospel of Jesus Christ that brings salvation and eternal life to the people. Because the real banquet that no one should miss is the banquet in heaven that we would have with Jesus when He will come and take us with him to heaven and spend eternity with Him, *“Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” (Revelation 19:9)*

Therefore when Jesus was speaking about the banquet in the Pharisee house one of those who were attending grasped the message of the Lord and His purpose: that finally we should have our place in the banquet in heaven that the Lord prepares when He comes. Therefore that what the man said, *“Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” (Luke 14:15)* Jesus agreed upon the statement and gave the parable of the banquet:

¹⁶ *Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ ¹⁸ “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ ¹⁹ “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’*

²⁰ *“Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ ²¹ “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ ²² “ ‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ ²³ “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴ I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.” (Luke 14:16-24)* The following we can conclude from this parable:

1- Don’t miss the invitation: There are many things that you are busy with and that taking you away from God’s will and His service; fields, oxen, marriage, family life, business, making money, cars, and the rest of the worldly and attractive things. But in them there is no Kingdom of God and with such worldly things you can’t be in the banquet that Jesus will prepare for us in heaven. Those who were invited and failed to respond because they were not willing to give up their worldly plans this what they will get, *“I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.” (Luke 14:24)* The word that those people said to God’s servant is *“excuse me,”* and they are not aware that the meaning of their answer to God’s invitation is “exclude me!”

2- Don’t be afraid to Obey God: The master when He sent His servant to invite He sent him with this message, *“Come, for everything is now ready.”* God had prepared everything for you to enjoy life and to enjoy it to the full. What is left for you to do is only to obey Him in order for you to receive and enjoy all what he prepared for you, *“However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.” (1Corinthians 2:9)*

3- Be clear minded and don’t be enticed with what others are doing: The servant whom the master sent was not enticed to follow the bad example of others who left God’s invitation and got busy with worldly things. When you go to evangelize do not do what the people do and lose your place in heaven and what God had prepared for you.

4- Continue to invite people to God’s banquet: There are certain people who had already adopted defensive mechanism to avoid God’s call. Such people you should leave them to God to discipline them and correct them. But you go further, and *go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.*

5- Know and do your responsibility well: The servant told his master *“what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.”* He went further and invited the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame. You too do the same, what God’s word is telling and what you know about God’s will then you do it without the need of someone to remind you.

6- Be willing to go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that God’s house will be full: God is calling you not to give up but to go further, use the high ways to reach new areas and cities and people with the gospels of Jesus Christ.

7- Be willing to serve God even if you are alone: In the parable that we read there was one servant who were doing all the above and great things for his master. He was diligent, faithful, compassionate and committed to the task. God expect from you the same, even you are one or even alone, you can do much for Him as He is with you. Commit your life and your ways to God and be willing to serve Him as you agree to pray. **My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to go on and not get discouraged with people negative response to your invitation. Lord here am I send me out and let me go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that your house will be full. Help me, protect me and provide for me. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*