

There Is Still Room at the Table

Luke 14:12–24

Big Idea

God's kingdom is like a banquet: the invitation is free, the invitation is for everyone, and the invitation requires a response.

Overview

In Luke 14, Jesus is eating at the house of a prominent Pharisee. While sitting at an exclusive table, Jesus teaches about the generous table of God's kingdom.

He challenges His host not to only invite friends, family, relatives, and rich neighbours — people who can repay him. Instead, Jesus says to invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

Then Jesus tells a parable about a great banquet. The invited guests make excuses and refuse to come, so the master sends his servant to bring in those who are usually overlooked. Even after many are brought in, the servant says, “**There is still room.**”

Historical Context

In Jesus' world, banquets were about more than food. They were connected to honour, status, and social repayment. People usually invited guests who could benefit them or invite them back.

Jesus challenges this system by telling His host to invite people who could not repay him. This reveals the heart of God's kingdom: grace, not status.

The banquet also connects to the Old Testament picture of God's salvation as a feast. In **Isaiah 25:6–9**, God prepares a feast for all peoples. In **Isaiah 55:1–3**, God invites the hungry and thirsty to come without money and without price.

1. The Invitation Is Free

The guests do not pay for the banquet. The meal is already prepared. They are simply invited to come.

This points to the gospel: salvation is not earned by works, status, money, or religious performance. It is received by grace.

Biblical Insight:

Ephesians 2:8–9 says salvation is by grace through faith, not by works.

Romans 6:23 says eternal life is the gift of God in Christ Jesus.

Key Thought:

The kingdom is not a restaurant where we pay the bill. It is a banquet where grace has already covered the bill by the blood of the Lamb.

2. The Invitation Is for Everyone

When the original guests refuse, the master sends the servant to the streets, alleys, roads, and country lanes. The invitation expands to the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.

This shows God's heart for the overlooked, the outsider, the sinner, and the spiritually hungry.

Biblical Insight:

Luke's Gospel often shows Jesus welcoming outsiders. Jesus eats with sinners, receives the rejected, and says in **Luke 19:10** that He came to seek and save the lost.

Key Thought:

"There is still room" means God is not trying to keep people out. He is sending His invitation out.

3. The Invitation Requires a Response

The invitation is free, but it must be received.

The first guests made excuses. One bought a field, one bought oxen, and one got married. These were normal life responsibilities, but they became excuses for rejecting the invitation.

Biblical Insight:

Romans 10:9 teaches that we respond to the gospel by confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in our heart that God raised Him from the dead.

Revelation 3:20 uses dining language to describe fellowship with Jesus: He stands at the door and knocks, inviting us to open and eat with Him.

Key Thought:

The danger is not that there is no room at God's table. The danger is that we make no room for God.

Summary

Luke 14:12–24 shows us the generous heart of God.

The invitation is **free** because salvation is a gift.

The invitation is **for everyone** because God welcomes the overlooked.

The invitation **requires a response** because grace must be received.

There is still room at the table for you.