

The Great Feast

Luke 14: 15-24

“Will you RSVP?”

Isaiah 25:6-9:

⁶“And the Lord of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, and refined, aged wine.

⁷And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations.

⁸He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken.

⁹And it will be said in that day, “Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”

Revelation 19: 1-9

1After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting:

"Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

2for true and just are his judgments.

He has condemned the great prostitute

who corrupted the earth by her adulteries.

He has avenged on her the blood of his servants." **3**And again they shouted:

"Hallelujah!

The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever."

4The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried:

"Amen, Hallelujah!"

5Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

"Praise our God,

all you his servants,

you who fear him,

both small and great!"

6Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

"Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

7Let us rejoice and be glad

and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,

and his bride has made herself ready.

8Fine linen, bright and clean,

was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

9Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' " And he added, "These are the true words of God."

Setting in this Luke passage: Jesus was at the house of one of the leaders of the Pharisees on the Sabbath. Jesus noticed that some of the invited guests at the house were seeking the more honored places to sit. Jesus spoke about being humble and seeking the lower position. He then spoke about inviting the poor and the crippled to dinner, even though they could not repay the host, because the host would be repaid in the resurrection. Then we come to our passage and the Pharisee who says, "Blessed is everyone who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Obviously this Pharisee expects that he himself will enjoy the blessings of the coming kingdom and Jesus uses this as an opportunity to talk about who is going to be invited and thus we find ourselves looking at the truths of this passage.

I. Many have rejected and insulted our Heavenly Father! (v. 18-20)

- a. John 1: 11-13, **"He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God -- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."**
- b. The Jewish people were God's chosen race – but they rejected HIM! They did not receive Jesus – they did not accept HIS invitation. The invitation is open to all but the excuses are the same today as they were back then:
 - i. Finances/Materialism – vs. 18
 - ii. Business or jobs – vs. 19
 - iii. Family responsibilities – vs. 20
- c. I believe this is the reason that Jesus tells us in the passage following this one that we need to 'count the cost' –
 - i. Remember that God is a jealous God – we are told to love HIM with all of heart, soul and mind – not with a part of our heart, soul and mind. Where does your commitment to God lie?
 1. Exodus 20: 1-6, **"1 And God spoke all these words: 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3 "You shall have no other gods before me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments."**
 - ii. No other Gods! He demands that HE be in first place in our lives!
 1. What are your priorities!
 2. If you were invited to a wedding, a football game, a party – one that is really important – do you make concessions, give things up?
 3. God wants us to rearrange our lives for HIM because this is the most important thing we will ever do!

II. God extends Mercy and Grace to the unworthy! (v. 21)

- a. The second theme I see is one of grace and mercy. Those who are not worthy to come to the host's table -- the poor, lame, crippled, blind -- are now invited. That is you and that is me. We are unworthy to eat at our Host's table, but we have been invited and cleansed.
- b. John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8,9, Romans 6:23, Romans 10:9
- c. You have been given an invitation to ETERNITY – what will you do with it? Don't let it pass you by – don't wait until it is too late! We do not know how long we have to live – will you wait.
 - i. Revelation 3:20 – let HIM in! Ask HIM in!

IV. We are told to 'compel' them to come! (v. 23)

- a. A third, and closely related theme is evangelism. The poor, lame, crippled, and blind are now sought out. They are not just invited, but they are sought out and urged, compelled, to accept the invitation. The poor and oppressed among the Jewish people are in view, but also the Gentiles. We are the servants, and bring a marvelous message of invitation and acceptance and forgiveness. We must take our role seriously and urge the invitation wherever we are. This is not a take-it-or-leave-it task. But a mission, the mission of the Host, and we must fulfill it. This is the mission of God, the Father – He is the one telling us to go!
- b. Matthew 28: 19, 20 - The Great Commission! Just as the servants are told to 'compel them to come in', Jesus told us all to go and make fishers of men!
- c. What will you and I do – people are going to HELL – do we care?
- d. Take the invitation! Give it out!