

PSALMS PROVERBS & PARABLES



What's more important?

Luke 14.1-24

Main Idea

When Christ returns to gather His people for His banquet, will we come and eat? Or will we find something more important?

Overview

I. Pharisees & Lawyers craft the Law for their own benefit (Vss. 1-6)

- Jesus heals on the Sabbath and it appears the dinner party is displeased
 - Jesus points out the obvious...if something that benefitted them demanded their work, they would perform it...however they disdain Jesus for “working” for the good of others

II. Attendants want to jockey for the “seat of honor” (Vss. 7-11)

- Jesus says that it is better to choose the worse seat and be brought up than it is to choose the best
 - Seat and be shamed in front of others being brought down
 - He who exalts himself will be humbled and he who humbles himself will be exalted (vs 11)

III. The refusal of the Banquet exposes the hearts of those that refuse...they value other things more (Vss. 15-24)

- The man invites people to a Banquet in advance (vs 16)
- When the invitation comes the Master sends the servant out to bring guests in:
 - The first guest says that he has land he needs to get back to and asks to be excused (vs 18)
 - The second guest says that he has bought some oxen and asks to be excused (vs 19)
 - The third guest says he has married and isn't coming (vs 20)
- The Master is angry and sends his servant out to the streets and lanes to bring in poor (vs 21)
- He does this but there is still room at the table (vs 22)
- Master says to go into the highways and hedges and compel others to come that his house may be full (vs 23)
- Those that refused will not come into the house (vs 24)

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Can you name any events that may appear either neutral or even benevolent that actually are self serving at the core?*

1. Read Luke 14:1-14. Looking at the first three incidents at the dinner party in these verses, what is the common feature that Jesus is addressing?

2. What are some ways we all jockey for a “seat of honor”? What are some ways we do things to be repaid though they may appear fine on the surface?
3. Read Luke 14:15-24. How do the first three incidents (vv. 1-14) help setup up the context for the parable in these verses?
4. What is the point of the parable from what you heard in the sermon?
5. What does the invitation and banquet represent?
6. What appears to be true of those that refuse the banquet though they were told it was coming?
7. How can we be sure that we won't refuse the invitation when the servant comes? What can we do to compel others to come to the feast?
8. Why won't the ones who refused get to come into the meal?

Accountability Question: If the Evil One were to destroy your life/faith, what interest would he use to rise up and take the place of Christ?