

## Dinner Parties & Discipleship

(Luke 14:7-24)

### Introduction

1. [Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to experience the power of the gospel & impact the culture.
2. The religious people follow Jesus around to scrutinize & criticize, & invite Him to a dinner party.
  - a. Jesus teaches them Party Etiquette 101: Life lessons on how to live out the Kingdom at parties.

### Humility or humiliation? [Luke 14:7-11]

1. [7] Jesus notices the invited Pharisees jockeying for the best seat in the house.
  - a. Triclinium: Dinner table, U-shaped low couches where people recline head-to-foot (cf John 13:23-25).
  - b. The central position is for the host; the next highest honors are the seats to the left & right of him.
2. [8-9] The proud will be humiliated.
  - a. People who are proud always push their way to the front.
  - b. Pride is evil/satanic: [Isa 14; Eze 28] In pride, Satan rebelled against God instead of trusting in Him.
  - c. [Augustine] "*Pride is like a mother pregnant with all the other sins.*"
  - d. It is the underlying root of all sins: "God, I'm not going to trust You or go Your way; my way is better."
  - e. Satan, those who do evil, those who exalt self will experience humiliation in this life or the one to come.
3. [10-11] The humble will be exalted.
  - a. Humility: Having the right view of yourself before God (cf. Phil 2:3-11).
  - b. God's plan for us is humility. If we don't operate with humility, we'll experience humiliation.
4. Application: Whether at a party or in life, do you walk the path of humility or humiliation? Pride Test:
  - a. Need a lot of attention
  - b. Attitude of entitlement or gratitude
  - c. Get upset when people don't honor your achievements
  - d. Jealous or critical of others' success
  - e. Cut in line at the store, airport or freeway: Indicative of self-importance; others can wait
  - f. Always need to win (maybe even cheat)
  - g. Pattern of lying: Something makes me look unfavorable, so I lie
  - h. Lots of tension/conflict with others: There's always conflict between the proud; seldom between the humble
  - i. Have a hard time acknowledging when wrong: Don't confess, fight when caught, shift blame, change subject. Instead of saying: "I'm wrong", making an excuse: "Nobody's perfect"; "I'm only human."

### Generosity or reciprocity? [Luke 14:12-14]

1. [12] Jesus confronts the inviting Pharisee.
  - a. It's easy to fill up the table with friends, family, the rich, i.e., people you like & people of influence.
  - b. Why do we do that? Because of the hope of something in return, the selfish motivation of reciprocity.
2. [13] Radical Kingdom generosity: Instead, invite those who can't pay you back, the outcasts, broke & broken.
  - a. Biblical hospitality: Welcoming/love for strangers (*philoxenia*).
  - b. Application: Be generous with both the menu & the guest list, including those who are not yet friends.
3. [14] In Heaven, God will reward His followers that reflect Christ's generosity toward those who cannot repay.
  - a. It's not being generous (or works-based merit) that gets you into Heaven.

4. Application: Do you live a lifestyle of generosity or reciprocity?
  - a. Do you bless people generously? Without any strings attached, or expectation of repayment?
  - b. Are you inviting, welcoming & inclusive of strangers & strange people outside your comfort zone?

### **Important or inconvenient? [Luke 14:15-21a]**

1. [15-16] Jesus teaches a Pharisee that the Kingdom of Heaven is like the greatest banquet party ever.
  - a. God commands feasts/holidays in the Old Testament because He is a good, joyful, celebrating, living God.
  - b. Big idea: All of life (including parties & celebrations) are all a preview for Heaven, a foreshadowing of eternity.
  - c. Jesus tells them, not all of them will be going to His party in Heaven.
2. Jesus' party has a lot of "no-shows."
  - a. [17-18a] The Pharisees would recognize the excuses as ridiculous & insulting in Ancient Near East culture.
  - b. [18b] No one buys real estate without seeing it first.
  - c. [19] The wealthy landowner can afford to wait a few days to examine the many work oxen he's bought.
  - d. [20] It's not their wedding day, & his wife wouldn't dictate his schedule in ANE culture.
  - e. [21a] The Inviter is justly angry because his tremendous effort, expense & generosity are met with disdain.
  - f. Instead of honoring Him & enjoying His generosity as important, they saw it as inconvenient.
3. Application: How many of us are not moving toward the Kingdom because of lame excuses?
  - a. Life is filled with distractions & lame excuses; following Jesus is not a one-time decision.
  - b. Following Jesus is a lifetime pursuit, culminating in the Wedding Feast of the Lamb [Rev 19].
  - c. Is pursuing Jesus important or inconvenient to you?

### **Respond to the invitation [Luke 14:21b-24]**

1. [21b-24] The celebration will go on & every seat filled, but by the most unlikely people.
  - a. Again, the outcast, broke & broken are invited (cf. 14:12-13).
  - b. But those originally invited who reject the invitation won't taste the banquet.
2. [Isa 25:6] What will the Kingdom banquet be like?
  - a. Menu: The richest, best, finest food with God as the chef.
  - b. Guest list: An invitation goes out to all peoples; anybody can come to Jesus & His party.
3. Challenge: Will you make it to the Kingdom party?
  - a. Have you turned from sin & trusted in Jesus?
  - b. He is the God who left a great Party, came down to be inconvenienced, humiliated, treated as unimportant & crucified to extend an invitation to come to His party by paying your debt of sin.
  - c. He's ascended back to Heaven & is preparing a generous place & feast for us (John 14:2).
4. Challenge: Throw a great party; show people the Kingdom.
  - a. Be generous with what you have (whether little or much).
  - b. Invite old friends, strangers and people in need.