

Parables of Christ – The Great Supper Lk. 14:15-24

Thesis: To help us understand the importance of obeying the gospel while we have the opportunity.

Introduction:

I. Notice the setting of the parable (14:1-15).

- A. Jesus was invited to eat with “one of the rulers of the Pharisees” (14:1-6).
 - 1. It was the Sabbath when this dinner occurred.
 - 2. There was a man there who had a disease, and Jesus healed him.
- B. Jesus then tells them a parable that taught them humility (14:7-11).
- C. Jesus then tells them who they are to invite when they host a feast (14:12-14).
- D. Remember, Jesus was the invited guest in the house of a Pharisee when He tells the parable that we are discussing tonight.
- E. One who was at the dinner says to Jesus, “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God” (14:15).
 - 1. The exact meaning of this statement is debatable.
 - 2. He could be referring literally to bread eaten in Jerusalem during one of the feast of the Jews.
 - 3. He could also be referring to eating bread in the Messianic kingdom, which the Jews thought would be an earthly kingdom.

II. Notice the actual parable (14:16-24).

- A. There has been a great feast prepared and the master has sent his servant to gather those who were invited (14:16-20).
 - 1. There were three excuses that were offered.
 - a. “I have bought a piece of ground” (14:18).
 - b. “I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them” (14:19).
 - c. “I have married a wife” (14:20).
 - 2. Each of these men were, in essence, saying that the feast was not as important as the other things they were doing.
 - a. Each of the men could have attended to these desires after the feast.
 - b. Not a single one of them was so important that it could not wait.
 - c. It is argued as to whether or not these were valid reasons or flimsy excuses.
 - d. It does not matter; the point is that they were more important than the supper.
- B. The servant was then commanded to go into the city and invite others to the feast (15:21-24).
 - 1. There would be both rich and poor people in the city.

2. All were then invited, even those who were “the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind” (14:21).
3. When there was still room in the house, the servant was commanded to “go out into the highways and hedges” and fill the house (14:22).
4. Notice exactly who was invited to the feast in the end.
 - a. Streets – common roads in the city in which the better class people would be.
 - b. Lanes – narrow streets and alleys where the poor would naturally be found.
 - c. Poor, maimed, lame, and blind – those who were less fortunate than those originally invited.
 - d. Highways – roads leading into the city.
 - e. Hedges – narrow hedge paths, vineyards, or gardens.
5. This feast, which was private, is now open to everyone.

Practical Application

III. God does not accept our excuses for not serving Him.

A. Notice again the three types of excuses that were given.

1. The buying of the land and the oxen could were business deals.
2. The marrying of the bride was one of pleasure.
3. Because of these excuses, none of these men were able to eat of the supper that had been prepared.

B. It is important for us to know today that God will not accept our excuses for not serving Him.

1. There is no excuse that we could offer God that would be acceptable.
2. God expects us to serve Him at all times.

C. Today is the time to obey the gospel.

1. II Cor. 6:2 - Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
2. The moment in which we live is the only time we are promised.
3. It is extremely important to obey the gospel of Christ now and not put it off.

IV. Even though salvation was at one time only offered to the Jews, it is now open for everyone.

A. Salvation was offered to the Jews first.

1. Acts 2 – The Day of Pentecost was for the Jews.
2. Acts 3:26 – (Peter at Solomon’s Porch after healing the lame man) “To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.”
3. In fact, the first 9 chapters of Acts are dedicated to the spread of the gospel to the Jews.

B. It was then offered to the Gentiles because the Jews rejected it.

1. It was not until Acts 10 that the Gentiles had an opportunity for salvation.
2. Also, Peter was forced to defend going to the Gentiles (**Acts 11:1-18**). (Incidentally, it was from this time forward that the Judaizing teachers began.)
3. Because the Jews rejected the gospel, it was then preached to all.
4. **Rom. 1:16** - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
5. **Rom. 11** – Paul uses the illustration of a wild olive tree that has had branches grafted into it to show that the Gentiles have been added to the kingdom of heaven.

Conclusion:

- A. God has given each of us an opportunity to partake of a great supper (heaven).
- B. We can either make excuses for not coming or we can accept the invitation and enjoy the reward.
- C. The choice is ours.