

the stories **JESUS TOLD**

THE GREATEST INVITATION

luke 14:1-24



One Sabbath, when Jesus went to share a meal in the home of one of the leaders of the Pharisees, they were watching him closely. 2 A man suffering from an abnormal swelling of the body was there. 3 Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, “Does the Law allow healing on the Sabbath or not?” 4 But they said nothing. Jesus took hold of the sick man, cured him, and then let him go. 5 He said to them, “Suppose your child or ox fell into a ditch on the Sabbath day. Wouldn’t you immediately pull it out?” 6 But they had no response.

Luke 14:1-6 CEB



The healings of Jesus are always deeper and more complex than what we see immediately on the surface, and we can and we should learn from that in our own lives, prayers, longings, convictions, and frustrations. What is below the surface of the presenting issue?



1) The Parable of the Wedding Feast

2) Jesus' Instruction

3) The Parable of the Great Banquet



7 When Jesus noticed how the guests sought out the best seats at the table, he told them a parable. 8 “When someone invites you to a wedding celebration, don’t take your seat in the place of honor. Someone more highly regarded than you could have been invited by your host. 9 The host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give your seat to this other person.’ Embarrassed, you will take your seat in the least important place. 10 Instead, when you receive an invitation, go and sit in the least important place. When your host approaches you, he will say, ‘Friend, move up here to a better seat.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. 11 All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up.”

Luke 14:7-11 CEB



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CapitalOne

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Luke 14:7-11 CEB



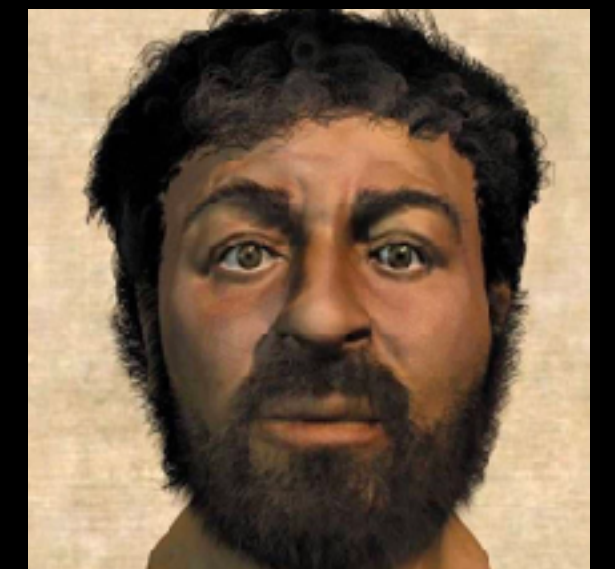
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Luke 14:7-11 CEB



*But that's not the way it will be with you.
Instead, the greatest among you must become
like a person of lower status and the leader like
a servant.*

-Jesus



Jesus' Instruction

12 Then Jesus said to the person who had invited him, “When you host a lunch or dinner, don’t invite your friends, your brothers and sisters, your relatives, or rich neighbors. If you do, they will invite you in return and that will be your reward. **13** Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind. **14** And you will be blessed because they can’t repay you. Instead, you will be repaid when the just are resurrected.”

Luke 14:12-14 CEB



“There is nothing wrong with your good deeds being known by others, but there is a great temptation in each of us, given how the world works, to do good deeds for the sake of them being known...Secrecy allows us to live before an audience of One; it helps us to off-load the burden of approval and disapproval...practicing doing good things without it being known who did them helps us not to give people’s approvals and disapprovals too much hold over our lives. We come to prioritize God’s approval.”



-Dallas Willard



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Luke 14:12-14 CEB



15 *When one of the dinner guests heard Jesus' remarks, he said to Jesus,
"Happy are those who will feast in God's kingdom."*

Luke 14:15 CEB



16 Jesus replied, "A certain man hosted a large dinner and invited many people. 17 When it was time for the dinner to begin, he sent his servant to tell the invited guests, 'Come! The dinner is now ready.' 18 One by one, they all began to make excuses. The first one told him, 'I bought a farm and must go and see it. Please excuse me.' 19 Another said, 'I bought five teams of oxen, and I'm going to check on them. Please excuse me.' 20 Another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' 21 When he returned, the servant reported these excuses to his master. The master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go quickly to the city's streets, the busy ones and the side streets, and bring the poor, crippled, blind, and lame.' 22 The servant said, 'Master, your instructions have been followed and there is still room.' 23 The master said to the servant, 'Go to the highways and back alleys and urge people to come in so that my house will be filled. 24 I tell you, not one of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

Luke 14:16-24 CEB

18 One by one, they all began to make excuses. The first one told him, 'I bought a farm and must go and see it. Please excuse me.' 19 Another said, 'I bought five teams of oxen, and I'm going to check on them. Please excuse me.' 20 Another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

Luke 14:18-20 CEB



If you curse me,
I will bless you
If you hurt me, I will forgive
And if you hate me, then I will Love you
If you're helpless,
I will defend you
If you're burdened, I'll share the weight
And if you're Hopeless, then let me show you
If you strike me,
I will embrace you
If you chain me, I'll sing His praise
And if you kill me, my Home is Heaven

The Jesus Way



He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8 CEB



Takeaway #1

When you receive God's invitation, take it seriously. You are wanted, you are invited, yet you are also expected to show up. It is for your best and for God's glory.



Takeaway #2

When you do show up, do so with humility...humility toward God, humility toward others.



Takeaway #3

When you are in a position to host or in a position of strength, build your guest list in line with the heart of God.



I can guarantee you that we will see people meet Jesus. I guarantee that some people will leave.

I guarantee that the faith of many will deepen.

I guarantee that we will be uncomfortable. I guarantee we will learn to live in a beautiful mess, both loved and loving, and that we can confidently tell one another and the watching world: “This is the Kingdom of God!”



We need to be good story tellers, and
even more importantly, good listeners!

