

The Parable of the Great Feast

Luke 14:15-24; Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 219-237

8 Lesson

Have you ever been invited to a party? Were you excited about it? Did you look forward to going? Jesus is planning a great feast, a party for all who love Him. Would you like to be there?

Have you finished inviting our guests?" asked the host of the party.

"Yes, sir, I have," replied his servant.

"Thank you, my friend. I can always trust you to do a good job for me." The master smiled, thinking of the party he had planned. Invitations had gone out. And his friends said they would come. They would have a wonderful time together.

When the banquet was ready, the servant had another job to do. He personally went to

let the guests know that it was time to come.

After knocking on the first door, the servant waited. And waited. And then waited some more. Finally, he knocked again. After several minutes, the door opened and an impatient man said, "Yes? What is it? What do you want?"

Courteously, the servant reminded the man of his invitation to the banquet. "Please, sir, do come right away! My master has everything prepared. He is looking forward to visiting with you!"

With a sigh, the man said, "Oh, of course! I wish I could, but I just bought a field, and I need to go look at it. I'm terribly sorry. I do hope you understand." And with that, he closed the door quickly.

Shaking his head, the servant went to the next address on his list. *Surely I'll have a better response here*, he thought to himself. However, when the homeowner came to the door, he said, "I've just bought five yoke of oxen. I need to try them out!"

A third time the servant knocked on a door. This time a man stuck his head outside and listened to the servant. "I



The Message

Jesus invites us to be with Him in heaven.

Memory Verse

“Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God”

(Luke 14:15, NIV).

just got married!” he announced. “I can’t come! Please excuse me!”

The servant went to house after house, with the same results. Everybody who had been invited to the party seemed to have a reason they couldn’t come! Disappointed, he finally returned to his master’s home. There he explained how each of the guests had responded with excuses.

For a moment, a look of sadness crossed the face of the host. “That’s certainly too bad,” he said, “but we can invite others! Go out to the city streets and alleys and bring in anyone who wants to come! Hurry!”

After inviting everyone he could find in the city, the servant returned, exhausted. Soon those dinner party guests arrived and were welcomed. A good group, but there was still room at the banquet table.

“Master, we still have room,” the servant reported.

“Quick, my friend! Go out to the country roads! Go everywhere you can think of! Let’s fill this place! Everyone who accepts my invitation will enjoy the party with me!”

Today, Jesus has a wonderful party planned, and He’s giving you an invitation! Many people in the story had excuses for not coming to the

party. They let other things become more important than being with their friend. They weren’t really true friends at all.

Because they were too busy with things, they turned down the invitation and missed the great feast!

In this parable, the invitation to the “party” is Jesus’ invitation for us to live with Him forever. We have a choice.

We can decide to

accept His invitation or to let other things become more important in our lives. How about you? Right now, will you say yes to the invitation Jesus has given you? Do you want to be with Him in heaven? Or will you miss out on the great party He is preparing for us there?



S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go with your family to a place where fruit grows. Find a quiet spot and read your lesson story together. Then read Revelation 22:1, 2 to find out about a special fruit tree in heaven. Who will enjoy the great feast in heaven? Who will eat from the special tree?

DO Teach your family the memory verse.

S U N D A Y

DO Give the invitation you made in Sabbath School to someone and tell them the Bible story. Let them know that God's invitation is for them too. (Or make an invitation now. Write the memory verse and message on the front. Inside write "Let's plan to meet at the party.")

DO Write your memory verse on a paper plate. Use it to review the verse with your family this week.

M O N D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss Luke 14:1-15. Where was Jesus at this time? What was He doing there? Why do you think He talked about inviting people to dinner?

DO Luke 14:1-15 tells what happened before Jesus told The Parable of the Great Feast. Have someone help you find the word *parable* in a dictionary. Talk about its meaning. Why did Jesus use parables to teach lessons?

PRAY Thank Jesus for His parables that help us understand His Word.

There wasn't even one time when Jesus was invited to a person's home that He didn't go.



T U E S D A Y

READ During worship read and discuss Luke 14:15-24. Who does the servant represent? Who does the master represent? Who are the people who refuse to come to the feast? Who are those who come? How is the invitation to the great feast like Jesus' invitation to us today?

SING Sing about Jesus' coming to earth again. Then thank Him for His promise to do so. Ask Him to help you and your family to be ready when He comes.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ For worship today read Matthew 22:1-14 with your family. How is this story similar to the one in your lesson this week? Now read Revelation 19:6-9. Who is the Lamb? Who is the Lamb's bride? When will this wedding supper take place?

DRAW Draw a picture of the Lamb's wedding supper. Put yourself and your family at the table. Show it to your family. Keep the picture to remind you to pray for your family.

THURSDAY

READ With your family, read Revelation 19:6-9. Ask your parents or grandparents about their wedding. Did they have a wedding feast? If possible, look at their wedding pictures. Compare their wedding to the wedding feast of the Lamb in heaven. What might keep you from the Lamb's wedding supper? How can you get ready to be there?

DO Sing songs about heaven, then thank God for His promises. Ask Jesus to help you and your family be ready to live with Him forever.



FRIDAY

SHARE Share some fruit as you act out your lesson story with your family. Be the servant who invites and then reminds people to come to the great feast.

READ Ask someone to read Revelation 21 and Revelation 22:1-5. How is heaven different from where you live? What will you eat at Jesus' great feast in heaven?

SING Before prayer, sing "I Want to Be Ready" (Sing for Joy, No. 127). Ask Jesus to help you and your family to be ready when He comes.

The Parable of the Great Feast

PUZZLE

Directions: What belongs on Jesus' banquet table? Draw a line from the objects to the banquet table.

