

Study Guide for June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Parables of Jesus. Luke 14:15-24: the Great Banquet.

Introduction: Have you ever hosted a dinner or party when some expected guests did not show up?  
What did you think if they gave an excuse which you sensed was shallow?

I. The JOY of attending the FEAST. (Luke 14:15)

A. Do you think the man who makes the statement in vs. 15 expected to be at the feast? Why?

B. What do the following passages teach about those celebrating with Messiah in his kingdom?

1. Psalm 22:25-26:
2. Isaiah 25:6-8:
3. Matt. 8:10-12 & Luke 13:28-30:

B. Why do you think Jesus makes use of the image of a feast? What does it symbolize?

II. The INVITATION to the FEAST. (Luke 14:16-17)

A. Who does the host invite? In light of the context (Luke 14:1-14), who were the initial guests?

B. Comment on the following statement, "There is nothing wanting on God's part for the salvation of man. If man is not saved, the fault is not on God's side. . . There is an infinite willingness in God to save man, if man is only willing to be saved." (J.C. Ryle, Luke, pg. 160-161)

III. Excuses for REFUSING to attend the FEAST. (Luke 14:18-20)

A. List the excuses given as reasons for refusing to attend. What are contemporary equivalents?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

B. Finish writing out Luke 14:26. "If anyone comes to me and does not hate . . .

C. What excuses have you heard most frequently from people for refusing Christ's invitation?

IV. WELCOMING the OUTCASTS to the FEAST / EXCLUDING the EXCUSERS (Luke 14:21-24)

A. Who are the recipients of the new invitation? (Note Luke 1:51-53, 6:20-23, 7:22, & 14:13)

B. How does the master respond to the fact that there is **still room**? What does this teach about God?

C. Identify with the servant who goes out. "Urging is necessary because the people do not know the host and so need encouragement to attend." (Fitzmyer, Luke, pg. 1057) Who should you urge to come to the feast? Who might be more open to attending while others make excuses?

D. Who were the recipients of Jesus' warning in this parable? How can we apply that warning today?