

The Parable of the Banquet

December 29, 2016

Luke 14:16-24 NASB

16 But He said to him, "**A MAN WAS GIVING A BIG DINNER, AND HE INVITED MANY;**

17 and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.'

18 "**BUT THEY ALL ALIKE BEGAN TO MAKE EXCUSES. THE FIRST ONE SAID TO HIM, 'I HAVE BOUGHT A PIECE OF LAND AND I NEED TO GO OUT AND LOOK AT IT; PLEASE CONSIDER ME EXCUSED.'**

19 "**ANOTHER ONE SAID, 'I HAVE BOUGHT FIVE YOKE OF OXEN, AND I AM GOING TO TRY THEM OUT; PLEASE CONSIDER ME EXCUSED.'**

20 "**ANOTHER ONE SAID, 'I HAVE MARRIED A WIFE, AND FOR THAT REASON I CANNOT COME.'**

21 "**AND THE SLAVE CAME BACK AND REPORTED THIS TO HIS MASTER. THEN THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD BECAME ANGRY AND SAID TO HIS SLAVE, 'GO OUT AT ONCE INTO THE STREETS AND LANES OF THE CITY AND BRING IN HERE THE POOR AND CRIPPLED AND BLIND AND LAME.'**

22 "And the slave said, 'Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.'

23 "And the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled.'

24 '**FOR I TELL YOU, NONE OF THOSE MEN WHO WERE INVITED SHALL TASTE OF MY DINNER.'**"

LESSONS FROM THE PARABLE

1. **God has prepared a wonderful feast for us; a feast of salvation, His Spirit, His presence, His fellowship, His treasures, His power.**

Psalm 16:11 NASB

11 In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

John 4:13-14 NASB

13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again;

14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

Isaiah 55:1-2 NASB

1 "Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost."

2 "Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance."

2. **The eternal peril of wrong priorities - allowing the good to replace God - neglecting what really matters - easier to justify than sin.**

Matthew 6:33 NASB

33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Hebrews 2:1-3 NASB

1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.
2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,
3 how will we escape if we NEGLECT (ameleō - make light of, to be careless of) so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

3. **The feast of salvation which God has prepared will be given to those with no alternatives, no other options (the poor, the crippled, the blind, the lame). Allow yourself no other options. Human and earthly methods and resources will produce results, but not the will of God.**

2 Chronicles 16:1-8 NASB

1 In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and fortified Ramah in order to prevent anyone from going out or coming in to Asa king of Judah.
2 Then Asa brought out silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the LORD and the king's house, and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Aram, who lived in Damascus, saying,
3 "Let there be a treaty between you and me, as between my father and your father. Behold, I have sent you silver and gold; go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so that he will withdraw from me."
4 So Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and they conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim and all the store cities of Naphtali.
5 When Baasha heard of it, he ceased fortifying Ramah and stopped his work.
6 Then King Asa brought all Judah, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber with which Baasha had been building, and with them he fortified Geba and Mizpah.
7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you have relied on the king of Aram and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Aram has escaped out of your hand."
8 "Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim an immense army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand."

2 Chronicles 14:8-13 NASB

8 Now Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah, bearing large shields and spears, and 280,000 from Benjamin, bearing shields and wielding bows; all of them were valiant warriors.
9 Now Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and he came to Mareshah.
10 So Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up in battle formation in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.
11 Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said, "LORD, there is no one besides You to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O LORD our God, for we trust in You, and in Your name have come against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; let not man prevail against You."
12 So the LORD routed the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.
13 Asa and the people who were with him pursued them as far as Gerar; and so many Ethiopians fell that they could not recover, for they were shattered before the LORD and before His army. And they carried away very much plunder.

4. **God is watching our responses to His invitation and drawing.**

2 Chronicles 16:9 NASB

9 "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You [Asa, King of Judah] have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."