



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 75 “The Great Banquet” By Pastor Jody May

Luke 14:15-24 ESV

The Parable of the Great Banquet

¹⁵ When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” ¹⁶ But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. ¹⁷ And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant^[c] to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ ¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ ¹⁹ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’ ²⁰ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ ²¹ So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’ ²² And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ ²³ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I tell you,^[d] none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

Review:

Last week we learned about humility:

- To Seek the Good of Others
- To Seek to Honor Others
- To Seek to Love the less Fortunate

That news, that teaching, was given in light of a dinner party that Jesus was at. It was an occasion to highlight one’s self-importance. At this Public event where people fought for the best seat, to show their worthiness, to show they were



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avored, to receive reciprocal favors, is where Jesus lowered the **BOOM** on what was their **Prideful Behavior**. He called out those that thought they were superior to others by their good religious behavior, that if they were truly good, then they would actually work at honoring and loving others, practicing **HUMILITY**.

Then the next thing you hear, after Jesus’ correction is someone breaks the silence, **some fool thinks that he is not in the same boat as** the people that Jesus was talking about. This is that guy that we all **went to school with**, you know him, the one that always decides to tell the class to shut it, when the teachers says no one is going outside today if they hear any more talking. Of course, this guy that tells everyone to shut it is the worst offender in the class and now he is costing you, your playground time! He’s the guy that doesn’t know how dumb he is or that you are going to have a nice talk with him in the parking lot after school!

15 When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!”

This guy, makes this grand announcement, and what he says is absolutely right, but the irony is that he thinks he’s in the Kingdom of God.

Kingdom of God and what is it?

This **Kingdom of God** (KoG) is seemingly **invisible** to His people, has been a large underlying theme in Luke all along. “Don’t miss out, don’t be like the religious elite, don’t fool yourself with works of righteousness”, has been the main thrust of Jesus’ statements for most of this Gospel.

For us today we view “**THE CHURCH**”, as the proof and evidence of the arrival of God’s Kingdom; It is the **byproduct of Jesus’ reign** and it is the **instrument** through which His Kingdom works. That means, we should desire to be a part of a local church, and we could even ‘**Amen**’ this guy in the text. Let’s work at defining more what the **KoG** is for us today because I think it will help us interpret these scriptures better, “**The Church is the visible manifestation of the invisible Kingdom of God.**”



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This out-burst, gives Jesus an even better opportunity to dive deeper into this whole topic, since the ‘*spoke person*’ for this class has opened his big mouth. Jesus is going to explain why His people were going to miss out on their eternal Recess! What was making them miss seeing the Kingdom was because their heart was already hardened against it. It’s all about one’s **ATTITUDE, if it has been changed by the HS**, when it comes to seeing the Kingdom. **From this I want to build out one big point for the day!:**

Your Works don’t keep you out of the Kingdom and your works don’t keep you in, it’s all about your attitude, for this is the condemning Sin!

Let’s get back to our parable and see how this plays out.

¹⁶ But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. ¹⁷ And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant^[c] to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

Now I hope you understand that the main thrust of this parable is that Jesus is talking about the Father, He is the one giving the banquet and we are probably supposed to picture this again as a wedding feast. In that day and age this banquet, a wedding feast, would have been the pinnacle of social privilege. Someone was hosting an event that encompassed days of celebration, where Jesus demonstrated earlier in His life where the wine gets better as it goes.

This is the type of feast where you don’t bring anything you just show up! There is nothing for you to do, nothing to give, you are required to bear witness to the event, celebrate with the host, declare the goodness of it, and enjoy being blessed by it. As of matter of fact the host is working to ensure that when you talk about it you will have to say **it’s the best thing you have ever experienced** because if you can’t it would show that the host was a failure. The host has spared no expense, and he knows no one cannot out fund this extravagant feast! This is what it is like to come into the KoG, **to come under the reign, rule, and regality of our King Jesus**, is to be blessed more than you can ever believe!



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In v.16 it says ‘**many were invited**’ this refers to the **religious leaders of Jesus’ day**. The Pharisees, Sadducees, the scribes all had studied the scripture and they were to look forward to this day. God had invited them first to the party! In those days this was the custom, you received **two invites**: the **1st** was to warn you of its’ coming (JB) and the **2nd** was to tell you when it was ready (Jesus). The invite should shape and mold your life, it would **warn you about your attitude**. Your work, thank God for your work, now don’t worry, it is going to pay off! Your work in keeping with teaching the Law will now be reaped and people will now understand the KoG has come! The Messiah rewards the people with the completion of the OT covenants! Celebrate, you are no longer under the yoke of law or the world! BUT, look how they responded...

How did they respond to the invite?

¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ ¹⁹ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’ ²⁰ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’

These were some lame excuses to not come to the thing that everyone should want to come to!

I bought a field!? Buying a field, wait what? That means **you have already looked at it before you bought it**. All this refers to is that you want to pass up this opportunity for the biggest event in your life so you can **dream** about what you can do with your **new ability to grow your glory** and your interests. A field in those days meant security, future holdings, it was like a saving account with you in control. The pharisees were more caught up in what their life could become like instead of being caught up in what Jesus could do for their lives!

We get lost in it the same way, let’s not fool ourselves. We get mesmerized, focused in, and lost to daydreaming when we get new jobs, new opportunities, new homes, or a big tax refund. We can get lost in the “**how good it can be**” for



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us instead if **“how good this can be for the KoG”** because we have already inherited the best things in the Universe, a home with God! Are you saying ‘no’ to God’s invite to the banquet because you think you have discovered something that can bring you more joy?

I bought five oxen!? So, the host can’t drag you away from smelly dumb animals with an invite? The animals represent the ability to do the work now that you own that field. The pharisees had developed a way of life and had invested in ‘this way’ heavily to do more of the same, self-glorification through demeaning the people they were to care for.

For us I wonder how many of us are caught up in our ways of life that if God said to us, there is more joy in living simply, living with less, living in more quiet, living with more time, **if you will but leave it and follow Him**. Today family are you caught up in that stage of life where it takes a lot of focus off the KoG and puts a lot of **focus in your way of life?**

I got married!? Ok so it was time to settle down, its’ too late, someone else’s’ opinion now controls my life, it is no longer me that calls the shot. Perhaps this is the representation that the Pharisees were married to their way of life, they have no choice, it is out of their hands.

What keeps people from responding to Good’s invitation?

Perhaps for us you believe your circumstances keep you from pursuing the KoG with all you have. Maybe it is a spouse that doesn’t want it like you, maybe you think your life has got you where you can’t make decisions for yourself? Listen, my mother spent all her married days with a man hostile to the church, she set the precedent though for where he would be allowed to lead her, and her pursuit of God was one area my Father dare not tread on.

In all these excuses what had happened was that their hearts had been hardened by the world. The Pharisees had been molded into a jaded and uncaring religious blind person. Their attitude about what it meant to be successful in the world



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had changed perhaps because they never had it right in the first place. **They went looking to enter into the KoG by the works of their hands instead of seeing that their work was to prepare the world for the coming king.**

It seemed that their attitude showed that they believed people here on earth are to serve them to make a way to God instead of being available to serve the KoG. – Their attitude is what condemns them.

Jesus demonstrates the consequence of rejection.

Jesus the bridegroom is left at the banquet with no wedding party now. Jesus has come into the world to save the lost, Jesus has suffered and will suffer to actually earn his role as the bride of the church, to bring justice through paying for justice, to bring peace by buying peace through sacrifice, to raise the dead in Spirit by giving up His life. He came to show and free those that had picked up on the Pharisees example - that living the law is impossible, instead Jesus was rewarded by betrayal from the Pharisees when they stole His worship, they tried to steal His bride.

That’s the same thing we do when God offers us to come and be with Him. When we daydream about life too much, when we are caught up in our work, when we make excuses of why we can’t, it is because our attitude towards life is **that it’s all about me...**

Your Works don’t keep you out of the Kingdom and your works don’t keep you in, it’s all about your attitude, for this is the condemning Sin!

How did the Master respond to their snub?

’²¹ So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’²² And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’²³ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and



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hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.”

First, God never looks back. It’s not that there won’t be some type of offer for redemption later on (see Rom. 11). But He immediately tells the servant go out in the streets and lanes of the city and bring the broken. The Master goes around the lame wedding party and invites those that should have come through the pharisees. This is such good news, because the offer of the gospel is not dependent on whether a leader gets it right but is offered to you directly.

No going through a priest, a pastor, a denomination no, it is the offer to those that needed it the most and that is how it will always be. Jesus came for the sick (Luke 5:31) the pharisees were to bring them to Him. But Jesus is so humble he stoops lower than his position and does the work that His servants should have done, and He makes it to us.

Second, when there is still room, He sends the servant outside the city to the **highways and hedges to the places where the Gentiles** look from and have been despising those with the one true God. Praise Jesus, He has come for us! The servant **compels/pleads** us to come in so we may know the benefits of the KoG. What should have been an offer by the Jews as indentured servitude, here was the offer to come in as equals to the KoG.

We demonstrate the value of this Banquet:

- **By how we value one another – with utmost Humility** - To Seek the Good of Others, to Seek to Honor Others, and To Seek to Love the less Fortunate. These are the ones that God has compelled to come in.
- **By how we value our community** – is there a group of people in your life that you seek to take care for sick, lame, and needy and that you charge the hedges with the gospel and compel others to come in. You see we also have been given charge to watch out for one another. The KoG is not an isolated and individualistic endeavor.



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- **By how we value what God has offered** – we pray that God shows us what needs to be torn down in our Kingdom and what needs to be built up in His. Let’s make an honest assessment about the church, do we live to get from the church what we think we need to live our lives OR do we treat it as the visible representation of the KoG, do we enjoy it, and invite others in?

I pray that we all have seen how truly great this banquet is that the Father is preparing for us, how deserving King Jesus is of our praise, and how we can experience the joy of the KoG right now through our church. And if you can’t, then let me encourage you to grab someone in this church and begin to pray with them about these things.

PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that has prepared the Great Banquet for our attendance and has made a way for our attendance.

Go in the name of the Son, that is truly worthy of our praise and deserves to have as many guests as we can cram in.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that compels us to come and compels us to share, go and share this week...