

To Speak in Parables

Proclamation of the Gospel in the Parables of Jesus

Just Don't Call Me Late for Supper

Parable of the Great Supper

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

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A Parable of Rabbi Johanan b. Zakkai
b.Shabbat 153a

R. Eliezer said:

Repent one day before your death.

His disciples asked R. Eliezer:

But does a person know on what day he will die?

He said:

So much the more must he repent today;
perhaps he will die tomorrow.

It follows that a person should repent every day.

Even so said Solomon in his wisdom,

'Let thy garments be always white;
and let not thy head lack ointment (Eccles.9:8).

R. Johanan b. Zakkai then spoke a parable:

[It is like] a king who invited his servants to a feast and did not appoint them a time.

The wise among them adorned themselves and sat down by the door of the palace, for they said: Is anything lacking in a palace?

The foolish among them went to their work, for they said:

Is a feast ever given without preparation?

Suddenly the king summoned his servants. The wise among them went in before him adorned as they were, and the foolish went in before him in their working clothes. The king rejoiced to see the wise and was angry to see the foolish, and said: These who adorned themselves for the feast shall sit down and eat and drink;

but those who did not adorn themselves for the feast shall stand and look on.

Parable of the Great Supper Luke 14.15-24

Recommended Movies:

Babette's Feast
Places in the Heart

Luke 14:1-14

Jesus is at the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath



Ask Jesus...



Ask Jesus...

Luke 14:1-14

- If a person with dropsy should crash a formal dinner party on a sabbath day, should he be healed or thrown out of the house?

Dropsy: an abnormal accumulation of fluids in bodily tissues and cavities, accompanied for insatiable thirst for water

Jesus replies:

Heal him and then send him away

Polybius, *Histories* 13.2

Scopas, having failed to obtain the office, for the sake of which he had had the boldness to draw up these laws, turned his hopes to Alexandria, in the expectation of finding means there of restoring his broken fortunes, and satisfying to a fuller extent his grasping spirit. He little knew that it is impossible to assuage the ever-rising desires of the soul without correcting this passion by reason, any more than it is to stay or quench [p. 118] the thirst of the dropsical body by supplying it with drink, without radically restoring its healthy condition. Scopas, indeed, is a conspicuous example of this truth; for though on his arrival at Alexandria, in addition to his military pay, which he possessed independently as commander-in-chief, the king assigned him ten minae a day, and one mina a day to those next him in rank, still he was not satisfied; but continued to demand more, until he disgusted his paymasters by his cupidity, and lost his life and his gold together.

perseus.uchicago.edu/cgi-bin/text?doc=Perseus:text:1999.01.0234&query=book%3D13%3Achapter%3D2%3Asection%3D1



Ask Jesus...

Luke 14:1-14

- Where is the best place to take a seat at a dinner party?

Jesus replies:

“Sit down at the lowest place...

For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”



Ask Jesus...

Luke 14:1-14

Honor & glory – ἔντιμος δόξα
Shame – αἰσχυνή

Exalted – ὑψόω
Humbled - ταπεινόω



Ask Jesus...

Luke 14:1-14

- Whom should I invite to my fancy dinner party?

Jesus replies:

Don't invite friends, relatives or rich neighbors...
“But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

So, how are things going now at this banquet where Jesus is the guest?

Luke 14:15-24

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him,

“Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!”

Luke 14:15-24

¹⁶ Then Jesus said to him,
“Someone gave a great dinner
and invited many.
¹⁷ At the time for the dinner he sent his slave
to say to those who had been invited,
‘Come; for everything is ready now.’

Luke 14:15-24

¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses.
The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of
land, and I must go out and see it; please
accept my regrets.’
¹⁹ Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of
oxen, and I am going to try them out; please
accept my regrets.’
²⁰ Another said, ‘I have just been married, and
therefore I cannot come.’

Luke 14:15-24

²¹ So the slave returned and
reported this to his master.



Ask Jesus...

- I invited a number of prominent people to a great dinner and gave them plenty of advance notice. At the last minute, however, all of them canceled out with lame excuses. What should I do?

Jesus replies:

Luke 14:15-24

²¹ Then the owner of the house
became angry and said to his slave,
‘Go out at once into the
streets and alleys of the city
and bring in
the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’

Luke 14:15-24

²² And the slave said, ‘Sir, what you ordered
has been done, and there is still room.’
²³ Then the master said to the slave, ‘Go out
into the roads and lanes, and compel people
to come in, so that my house may be filled.’

So, how are things going now at this banquet where Jesus is the guest?

	HOST	SUBORDINATES	INVITED GUESTS	UNINVITED GUESTS
Matt				
Luke				
GT				

Matthew 22:1-14	Luke 14:15-24	Thomas 64
Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, ...	One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" ¹⁶ Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. ¹⁷ At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.'	Jesus said, "A man had received visitors. And when he had prepared the dinner, he sent his servant to invite the guests.

Matthew 22:1-14	Luke 14:15-24	Thomas 64
... but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.	¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' ¹⁹ Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' ²⁰ Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.'	He went to the first one and said to him, 'My master invites you.' He said, 'I have claims against some merchants. They are coming to me this evening. I must go and give them my orders. I ask to be excused from the dinner.' He went to another and said to him, 'My master has invited you.' He said to him, 'I have just bought a house and am required for the day. I shall not have any spare time.' He went to another and said to him, 'My master invites you.' He said to him, 'My friend is going to get married, and I am to prepare the banquet. I shall not be able to come. I ask to be excused from the dinner.'

Matthew 22:1-14	Luke 14:15-24	Thomas 64
	²¹ So the slave returned and reported this to his master.	He went to another and said to him, 'My master invites you.' He said to him, 'I have just bought a farm, and I am on my way to collect the rent. I shall not be able to come. I ask to be excused.' The servant returned and said to his master, 'Those whom you invited to the dinner have asked to be excused.'

Matthew 22:1-14	Luke 14:15-24	Thomas 64
⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.	Then the owner of the house became angry ...	

Matthew 22:1-14	Luke 14:15-24	Thomas 64
<p>⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.</p>	<p>... and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and <i>alleys</i> of the <i>city</i> and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' ²² And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' ²³ Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled.'</p>	<p>The master said to his servant, 'Go outside to the streets and bring back those whom you happen to meet, so that they may dine.'</p>

Matthew 22:1-14	Luke 14:15-24	Thomas 64
<p>¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'</p>		

Matthew 22:1-14	Luke 14:15-24	Thomas 64*
<p>¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.</p>	<p>²⁴ For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner."</p>	<p>Businessmen and merchants will not enter the places of my Father."</p>

	HOST	SUBORDINATES	INVITED GUESTS	UNINVITED GUESTS
Matt				
Luke				
GT				

	HOST	SUBORDINATES	INVITED GUESTS	UNINVITED GUESTS
Matt	King	Slaves, troops, et al	Farm, business, and the rest	good and bad from streets
Luke	Someone /master	Slave	1-landowner 2-oxen-buyer 3-married	-poor, crippled, blind lame in streets/alleys -anyone on roads/paths
GT	Man/ master	Servant	1-merchant 2-buy house 3-prep. wed. banquet 4-buy farm	those you meet in street

What is the parable about?

Thomas 64
Businessmen and merchants will not enter the places of my Father.

Matthew 22¹⁴
For many are called, but few are chosen.

Luke 14²⁴
For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.

What is the parable about?

Isaiah 25⁶⁻⁹

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

⁸Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

What is the parable about?

Luke 14²⁴

For I tell you, none of those who were invited (καλέω) will taste my dinner.

Matthew 22¹⁴

For many are called (κλητος), but few are chosen (ἐκλεκτος).

- Someone gave a great dinner and invited many.
- Bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.
- Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in.

- Someone gave a great dinner and invited (καλέω) many.
- Bring in (εἰσαγω) the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.
- Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel (ἀναγκάζω) people to come in.

- From the streets and alleys of the city... Bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.

Insiders who are outcasts

- Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in.

Outsiders who are outcasts



Parables function as metaphors challenging or inviting the audience into a new or deeper experience of God's dominion, a dominion identified with those who are the
**LAST LOST LEAST LITTLE
LIFELESS**

What kind of party is this that
God throws?



Ask Jesus...

- I ended up at this dinner party filled with all sorts of people with whom I usually do not associate, and some are quite unpleasant. If I stay, people will think I am one of them or approve of them. What do you think?

Jesus replies:

- Is this a dinner you wouldn't be caught dead at?
- Or is this a dinner you would die to attend?

Who do you think you are?

*Call Me What You Want,
Just Don't Call Me Late
for the Lord's Supper*