

## LIFE APPLICATION

THEME: THE WEDDING FEAST OF CHRIST

PASSAGE: LUKE 14: 15 -24

### **Luke 14:15-24 New International Version (NIV)**

#### **The Parable of the Great Banquet**

<sup>15</sup> When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. <sup>17</sup> At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

<sup>18</sup> “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’

<sup>19</sup> “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’

<sup>20</sup> “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’

<sup>21</sup> “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’

<sup>22</sup> “Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’

<sup>23</sup> “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. <sup>24</sup> I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’

#### **DISCOVERY & LAUNCH**

- What’s the lamest excuse you’ve ever given for not attending a social engagement?
- What does this parable tell us about what heaven will be like?

#### **UNDERSTANDING**

1. What did the pious guest in 14:15 believe about the feast in the Kingdom of God?
2. How credible are the invited guests' excuses for not coming? (14:18-20) Who do the invited guests in the parable represent?
3. What do you think are the key reasons people reject God’s generous invite to his banquet today? How do these match the attitudes of the characters in the story?
4. When you have a dilemma about getting involved in a Christian ministry/ activity, what on the whole are your principle reasons for not getting involved? In what ways can these excuses be somewhat unconvincing ( much like those of our guests in the story )
5. Why is the host angry? (14:21)
6. Some would argue that God is a God of love & has no right to be angry at those who reject his offer of salvation. How would you answer this question?

7. The host commands his servant to invite the poor and outcast both inside the town and outside in the rural areas. Who do these two groups probably represent?
8. Why is the host urgent about his invitation in 14:21-23?
9. What is the fine line between "compelling" people to come to the Lord, and gently leading them, fully respecting their own free will? How can we have both urgency and respect at the same time?
10. How does this parable illustrate the Father's judgment and his mercy?

#### APPLICATION

What marginalised ( or overlooked ) groups in our society might God be calling us to get more involved with?

Pray for one another that we will take seriously our master's instruction to invite people to the banquet. Pray that opportunities will arise for us to issue them.