

## LESSON 4 (Feb 10/11, 2021)

### *Messiah Part 3: The Parables of the Great Banquet and the Cost of Discipleship*



#### Read Luke 14:12–24

1. How are Jesus' words to the man who held the banquet in verses 12–14 related to last week's lesson on blessing and woes (Luke 6: 20-26)?
2. It was common in Jewish thought to understand the meal "as a symbol for the end-time celebration of God's people." This man assumed that he and his friends would be at that banquet on the basis of his status and works. What method does Jesus use to challenge his thinking?
3. How would you summarize each of the three excuses made by the guests in this parable?
4. Parables are literary tools Jesus uses to challenge people to make a decision about Him. How do you think the Pharisees responded to the claim that they would be the ones excluded from the end-time banquet (Verse 24)?
5. What are common excuses you are tempted toward when called by God toward obedience?

#### Read Luke 14:25–33

6. Who is Jesus speaking to when this section begins? Why is it important to "know the audience" and the context when we read Jesus's teaching anywhere in Scripture?
7. What does Jesus mean when he says one cannot be a disciple if one does not hate his own father and mother and family?

8. How can misunderstanding Jesus' use of metaphor, parable, tension, and hyperbole cause one to distort or confuse God's message?



9. Jesus says that "Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple" in verse 27. Do you think that people understood at this point in Jesus's ministry that to follow Him would require sacrifice of some type?

10. How do you understand the role of sacrifice as part of your call to follow Jesus?

11. Jesus again uses the tool of parable as he did at the banquet, this time in a pair. The first is about someone planning to build a tower, and the second is about a king engaging in a war. Compare and contrast these two parables.

12. Jesus concludes these parables with a direct statement: "Anyone who does not renounce all that he has *cannot* be his disciple." Is Jesus trying to deter people from becoming disciples?

13. Imagine yourself as a member of this great crowd listening to Jesus. What would be your thoughts and reactions listening to Jesus tell these bold, audacious parables about what it means to follow Him?

14. We have seen that Jesus communicates to a variety of different people in a variety of different ways (Disciples, Pharisees, Nicodemus, Crowds, etc.) What does this tell us about the character of God?

15. Does hard work, sacrifice, and renunciation bring us to the banquet in the kingdom of God? How does the absolute necessity of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation fit into Jesus's call to count the cost of discipleship?