



The Greatest Mistake You Will EVER Make!

The Parable of the Great Banquet - Luke 14

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@SouthReno.com.

A. The Four "Suppers" of the Bible

1. **The Great Supper** (*Past or now*; this parable in Luke 14) • **Salvation**
2. **The Lord's Supper** (*This morning*; 1 Cor. 11:26ff) • **Cross**
3. **The Marriage Supper of the Lamb** (*Soon*; Rev. 19:7-9, Dan. 9:24-27) • **Heaven**
4. **The Supper of God** (*Hopefully never*; Rev. 19:7ff) • **The Judgement of the Lost**

"If you partake in **The Great Supper of Salvation**, you may partake in **The Lord's Supper** while you await **The Marriage Supper of the Lamb**, and you will rejoice that you will never be invited **The Judgment Supper of God**...."

If you reject the invitation to **The Great Supper of Salvation**, the second supper, **The Lord's Supper** will mean nothing to you, and you'll miss completely **The Marriage Supper of the Lamb** but be assured that you will not miss the dreaded fourth supper—**The Judgement Supper of God**." - C. Swindoll, *'Living Insights' on Revelation*

B. Understanding the Parable

1. The Invitation to God's Supper of Salvation.

Luke 14:16–17, NCV -¹⁶ Jesus said to him, "A man gave a big banquet and invited many people. ¹⁷ When it was time to eat, the man sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come. Everything is ready.'

2. The Excuses for Rejecting God's Invitation.

Luke 14:18–20, NCV -¹⁸ "But all the guests made excuses. The first one said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go look at it. Please excuse me.' ¹⁹ Another said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen; I must go and try them. Please excuse me.' ²⁰ A third person said, 'I just got married; I can't come.'

A. One was preoccupied with his **property**. (Material Possessions)

Luke 14:18, NCV -¹⁸ "But all the guests made excuses. The first one said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go look at it. Please excuse me.'

B. One was preoccupied with his **possessions**. (Professional Advancement)

Luke 14:19, NCV -¹⁹ Another said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen; I must go and try them. Please excuse me.'

C. One was preoccupied with his **pleasure**. (Personal Relationships)

Luke 14:20, NCV -²⁰ A third person said, 'I just got married; I can't come.'

D. There is one other excuse not listed: _____!

3. The Extension of God's Invitation.

Luke 14:21–23, NCV -²¹ So the servant returned and told his master what had happened. Then the master became angry and said, 'Go at once into the streets and alleys of the town, and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' ²² Later the servant said to him, 'Master, I did what you commanded, but we still have room.' ²³ The master said to the servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes, and urge the people there to come so my house will be full.'

A. **The Poor**—those who could never pay Him back.

B. **The Crippled**—those who couldn't get there without intervention.

C. **The Blind**—those who couldn't see how to get there without help.

D. **The Lame**—those who needed someone to provide assistance.

E. The **"Country Dwellers"**—those who were really far away.

C. Application

1. God's invitation is broad, ample, and free.

2. Many will refuse God's invitation with excuses (*It's the greatest mistake you will EVER make*).

"Excuses are the skin of a reason stuffed with a lie." - Evangelist Billy Sunday

"The man who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else." - Benjamin Franklin

3. Some will humbly respond to God's invitation—and never regret it.