

THE EASIEST WAY TO CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE

#SHARE: Part 3
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The Parable of the Great Banquet

¹⁵ When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

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

¹⁸ "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.'

¹⁹ "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

²⁰ "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

²¹ "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.'

²² " 'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

²³ "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.'

Luke 14:15–23 (NIV84)

1. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS THE GOOD LIFE!

a great banquet...

"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." (John 10:10, NLT)

3 Levels of Living

- Survival.
- Success.
- SIGNIFICANCE!

"Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life." (1 John 5:12, NLT)

2. UNFORTUNATELY, PEOPLE OFTEN SETTLE FOR SECOND-RATE SUBSTITUTES.

they all alike began to make excuses...

We miss the good life when...

- Our possessions **POSSESS** us (18).
- Our career **CONTROLS** us (19).
- Our relationships **RULE** us (20).

*“And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? **Is anything worth more than your soul?**” (Matthew 16:26, NLT)*

3. GOD SAVED US TO **SEND US**.

he sent his servant to tell...

JESUS: “...As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” (John 20:21, NLT)

“Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am. Send me.”” (Isaiah 6:8, NLT)

FOUR SENSES OF A SENT SERVANT

1. SENSE OF **DEPENDENCY**.

...[he] invited many guests...

*“Do not be afraid or discouraged, for **the LORD will personally go ahead of you**. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.” (Deuteronomy 31:8, NLT)*

2. SENSE OF **URGENCY**.

Go out quickly...urge anyone you find to come...(NLT)

“We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work.” (John 9:4, NLT)

3. SENSE OF **SYMPATHY**.

into the streets and alleys...to the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.

JESUS: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim **good news** to **the poor**. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the **prisoners** and recovery of sight for the **blind**, to set the **oppressed** free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18–19, NIV)

- *Poor* = those who are HELPLESS
- *Prisoners* = those who are HELD HOSTAGE
- *Blind* = those who are HOPELESS
- *Oppressed* = those who are HURTING

4. SENSE OF DESTINY.

...so that my house will be full!

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him SHALL NOT PERISH but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NIV)

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10, NIV)

ACTION:
HOST A GROUP
INVITE PEOPLE TO THE GRAND OPENING