

# THE PARABLE OF THE GREAT FEAST

*Once Upon a Time: Part 4*

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*“...a man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, ‘What a blessing it will be to attend a banquet in the Kingdom of God!’ Jesus replied with this story: ‘A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, ‘Come, the banquet is ready.’ But they all began making excuses. One said, ‘I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.’ Another said, ‘I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.’ Another said, ‘I now have a wife, so I can’t come.’ ‘The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, ‘Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ After the servant had done this, he reported, ‘There is still room for more.’ So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.’ ” (Luke 14:15–23, NLT)*

## 1. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS THE GOOD LIFE (16)!

*a great feast...*

*“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)*

*“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 SETTLE FOR SECOND-RATE SUBSTITUTES.

*they all began making excuses...*

*We miss real 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 (17).

*he sent his servant to tell...*

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

## **FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF A GREAT COURIER**

### **1) Sense of DEPENDENCY.**

*sent out many invitations...*

*"Long ago the LORD said to Israel: "I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself." (Jeremiah 31:3, NLT)*

*"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 quickly...*

*"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...country lanes and behind the hedges...*

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)*

### **4) Sense of DESTINY.**

*so that the house will be full.*

*"[God] wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth." (1 Timothy 2:3–4, NLT)*

**ACTION:**  
**PEACE SURVEY**