

Luke 14:1-14

Kingdom Through Table

Image Church // The Gospel of Luke: Inverted Kingdom Wk. 21

Introduction

Good morning Image Family! I hope you're doing well, hey listen if you're **NEW** with us we're so glad that you're here with us this morning! I want to invite you to stop by our **FTG Tent**...

Also, *if you're here and you want to get connected*, we would love to help you take a next step and you can do that by stopping by our connection center tent right outside!

Also, just a quick reminder, we have and **Image Kids Lunch** right after our gathering this morning... This is for those who have kids and for those who want to serve in Kids- If you're not currently serving you need to be at this lunch!

if you have your bible, go ahead and turn to Luke 14...

As you're turning there, for those of you that are *new* with us, we've been a series called **Inverted Kingdom** where we've been walking through **the gospel of Luke**, and we've been looking at the life and ministry of Jesus, and talking about the implications that it has on our lives...

And here's the thing I've been holding up over and over that we see from the life of Jesus... He came as the means of our salvation, and He also modeled for us how saved people live...

- *Explain what this means regarding God's Kingdom and the implications it has on our lives...*

And what we saw last week, is that like Israel, time is of the essence and a huge decision is at hand while there's still time- will we see and believe in who Jesus is, and will we fully surrender to Him by being all about God's Kingdom??

This morning we're going to be picking up in **Chapter 14**, Jesus has been traveling from one village to another teaching about God's Kingdom as He was making His way to Jerusalem – which by the way will be the place of His death...

So, Jesus is on this journey there and this is where we pick up in **Chapter 14 verse 1**... And what Jesus is going to do is continue to show us what God's Kingdom is like, and He's going to do it by picking apart the status quo highlighting for us how different God's Kingdom is from that of the world...

And Jesus is going to get really practical here and it's going to be challenging... But let me say this- what we're going to be covering today should **not** feel like a cumbersome burden, you should receive it and embrace it as an incredible opportunity to experience God more...

Let's jump in...

Luke 14:1-14

1 One Sabbath, when he went in to eat at the house of one of the leading Pharisees, they were watching him closely.

I want you to notice that yet again Jesus is around the table... The concept of table, meal and banquet is a central theme here in **Luke 14**, this is the first of 3 references involving eating...

But even beyond **chapter 14** meals are something Luke emphasizes a lot, in fact a Scholar named Robert Karris wrote a book called **Eating your way through Luke's Gospel**... And in it he points out that *for the most part throughout the entire Gospel of Luke, Jesus is either going to a meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal...*

When I was contemplating following Jesus, this was the selling point for me... Can I get and Amen from all my food lovers!!

- Foodies be encouraged that is an attribute of your creator...
- By the way Jesus ate His steak medium-rare...

Luke 7:34 says that *the Son of Man came eating and drinking...*

The reality is that **meals served a significant purpose all throughout the Bible...**

- Passover...
- Multiple other feasts and festivals that served as reminders of the faithfulness of God...
- Lords Supper...
- The Lord's Supper is a meal and part of the significance of this meal is the anticipation of another meal- the feast of the Lamb at the marriage banquet where Jesus returns for His bride the church!
 - By the way this will be a big part of Heaven!

So, meals were a central part of Jesus ministry- they were the places where He built relationships, where He disciplined, showed grace, love and where He confronted people in regard to the Kingdom of God- which we're about to see here... ¹

BTW: This is why we eat together in our community groups, this is what it's one of our consistent rhythms... One of our **core values** here at Image Church is **Family**- because the Bible shows us that the church at its core is a family and as a part of that we eat as a family!

- We eat as a reminder and a foretaste...

Alright, so, Jesus is at this meal with the religious elite and what's about to happen is that a sick man is about to *appear*... Now we don't know if this guy was planted there by the Pharisee's or if He just shows up, let's see what happens...

Verse 2 There in front of him was a man whose body was swollen with fluid. **3** In response, Jesus asked the law experts and the Pharisees, **"Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?"** **4** But they kept silent. He took the man, healed him, and sent him away. **5** And to them, he said, **"Which of you whose son or ox falls into a well, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?"** **6** They could find no answer to these things.

So, Jesus does something miraculous here that should serve as yet again evidence of who He is, but per-usual it's missed...

This is the 4th time that Luke records some kind of controversy over the Sabbath between Jesus and the religious leaders...

And you got to love this- it's a classic mic drop moment for Jesus... It's almost comical how He addresses this situation and the Pharisee's keep their mouth shut on this one...

Jesus has them yet again... And what **He's doing is exposing the inconsistencies in their life...**

What He shows them is that when it comes to their own personal welfare with something that impacts them (*son, ox in a ditch*) they have no problem stepping in, but when it comes to showing compassion to a man in need, they hide behind a distorted version of the law...

- That's inconsistent and self-centered... And it goes against loving your neighbor as yourself...
- But for them, their rigidity builds up their pride...

Here's what you need to see: Jesus is showing them, and He's showing us, that God's not concerned with us simply **adhering to religious practices**, He's concerned with us having a genuine heart of compassion and mercy...

- One is about rule-keeping the other is about life reorientation.

¹ Some insight gained from Tony Merida, *Sent to Invite*.

Here's the thing, **practicing religion** is something that fuels pride...
The **gospel** does the opposite, the gospel breaks down pride...

- **Religious practices are things you can hang your hat on that have little to no impact on others... But gospel-centered living is something that makes you point to Jesus and has a profound impact on others...**
- Key point for the rest of the text...

Ok, so things are officially awkward, but Jesus is about to make things even more awkward as He addresses the pride of the guests who have come over to the meal... AND THEN He's going to address the host of the party... *It's about to get real!*

And again, understand that Jesus is He's picking apart the status quo in order to reorient our hearts around something beyond this world...

TEACHINGS ON HUMILITY

Verse 7 He told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they would choose the best places for themselves: **8** "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, don't sit in the place of honor, because a more distinguished person than you may have been invited by your host. **9** The one who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give your place to this man,' and then in humiliation, you will proceed to take the lowest place.

10 "But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when the one who invited you comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' You will then be honored in the presence of all the other guests. **11** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Jesus says here boys let me tell you what's wrong with your party... All of you guys are after seats of honor, attention, and the praise of people...² This is what you guys are after and this is a problem...

And it's a problem because the **Kingdom of God** is the exact opposite...

11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

This is the way of the Kingdom- this is why we call it the inverted Kingdom... *Flesh out...*

Philippians 2:5-9:

5 Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus,

6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited.

7 Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity.

And when he had come as a man,

8 he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross.

9 For this reason God highly exalted him

Gospel... You die with Christ, and you're exalted with Christ... When you die with Christ- you embrace humility like He did...

- Humility is something that makes you to point to Jesus...

Then He turns to the **host** and says to Him listen if your going to have people over, here's how it should look...

Verse 12 He also said to the one who had invited him, "When you give a lunch or a dinner, don't invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors, because they might invite you back, and you would be repaid. **13** On the contrary, when you host a banquet, invite those who are poor, maimed, lame, or blind. **14** And

² Tony Merida, *Sent to Invite*.

you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Talk about the first part, not having over friends, and family- *which some of yall can get on board with!*

What He's not saying: we have to understand he's looking into their hearts, not contradicting other texts...

- Jesus ate with friends...
- John 13:34-35
- *That is fellowship!*³

What Jesus is pushing against is **reciprocity**: I give to you, and you give to me...

- This is how our society works- we eat with those who can benefit us- same was true then...

But here's what Jesus is pointing to in the midst of a self-motivated world... **Hospitality...**

Hospitality: the love of Strangers... specifically here those who cannot pay you back...

Robust definition:

Hospitality: The willingness to welcome people in who are outside your normal circle of friends. It's opening your life and your space to people who fall into at least **one of these categories: they don't look like you, live like you, or believe the things that you do. For the purpose of showing them Jesus and pointing them to Jesus.**

But there is a key emphasis on the **marginalized** here that we can't look past...

And this is not a new theme... This is one that's consistent throughout the bible...

³ Ibid.

- **Isiah 58:7**: *bring the poor and homeless into your house.*
- **Proverbs 14:31**: the one who is kind to the needy honors him...
- **Proverbs 21:13**: *don't shut your ear to the cry of the poor...*
- **Proverbs 28:27**: *turn your eyes from the poor and receive many curses...*
- **Luke 4:18**: Jesus came to bring sight to the blind and to set the captives free...
- **Luke 6:20-21** Jesus came for the poor and the hungry
- **James 1:27** undefiled religion before God is to care for the orphan and the widow...

To list a few... In fact, it's talked about so much that one scholar says this: *God measures the integrity of our faith by our concern for the poor.*⁴

We have to ask the question, where is the single mom, where is the orphan, the fatherless, the motherless, where are the disabled at our diner tables...

- I recognize this is the most extreme sense of outsiders, but it is what the text says...
- We are not limited to these but are we even considering these?
 - Do we have eyes to see them? Are we intentional to engage them...

Listen no one should understand this better than you and me Christian...

Gospel:

Listen to me, the greatest act of hospitality was that a perfect and holy God extending us grace through Christ, welcoming in sinners like me and you...

- we were a strangers and foreigners, we were the sick and the poor to God because of our sin... And there was no way that we could get to him, there was nothing that we could do...

⁴ David plat, on *Luke 14*.

- There was nothing that we could offer God...
- In fact, we were enemies of God- we turned our backs on Him...

And yet God welcomes us in when we believe in the finished work of Jesus... How crazy is that, that God would welcome in the very people who rebelled against him?!? After all that we've done...

Jesus came and accomplished everything necessary for God to welcome us in... He lived our place, died in our place, rose from the dead to extend to us new life in Him...

Ephesians 2:19 says... 19 So then you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household...

This is incredible news... That in and through Christ, when you trust in Him, you become members of God's household... **IOW:** His home is your home!!

So, our motivation for hospitality is born out of God's hospitality for us...

*Jesus laid down His life for you so that you could be welcomed into the house of God, and the way you respond is by opening up your life to others so that they could experience the grace that God's extended to you...

And here's the other thing about hospitality... Because it's something that God values, because it's something that brings Him glory... When you respond to the gospel by being hospitable, you get the chance to experience more of who God is...

- You are reminded of the gospel
- Putting yourself second...
- There is a joy that comes from sacrifice and service in hospitality...

So not only is hospitality a means and method for making Jesus known, but also for taking you deeper in your knowledge of who Christ is! **Makes you point to Jesus... A way to practice humility...**

So, hospitality is huge in the Christian life and has been a priority for God and from God...

So here's how I want to finish out my time, I want to deal with some **some misconceptions around hospitality**⁵ with the hope of helping you see what it actually is!

1. Counterfeit hospitality

This happens **when the host is separated from the guests...** Let me explain what I mean by that...

It's where the desire to entertain supersedes the opportunity to genuinely know and love the guests that are present...

- Where you're more excited about showing off things, as opposed to leveraging those things as a bridge to love and serve...
- It's where you see it as an event to pull off and not people to engage with...
- Where you're more concerned with compliments than genuine conversations...

Rosaria Butterfield in her book *The Gospel Comes with a HouseKey* would say it like this: **it's Viewing hospitality as performance rather than calling...**

She says: *We sometimes forget that the Christian life is a calling, not a performance. Hospitality is necessary whether you have cat hair on the couch or not. People will die of chronic loneliness sooner than they will cat hair in the soup.* (p. 111).

- **Easy Fix- get rid of the cat, get a dog!**

⁵ Some insights gathered from Rosaria Butterfield, *The Gospel Comes with a HouseKey*.

Counterfeit hospitality may look good from the outside, but there's a big miss when it comes to the relationships that are built and the people that you invited in, and the way that you open up not just your home but your life...

Some of you struggle to do this because of your house and how clean it is or how good the space is... Don't let that be a hurdle...

- By the way one of the best investments you can make in your home is creating space ...
 - **Example:** Rachel and Pat...

Simply put the goal is this: **Christine Pohl** in her book *Making room* says: *Hospitality is extending to strangers a quality of kindness usually reserved for friends and family.*⁶

2. Evangelistic hospitality

This sees hospitality **solely** for the purpose of evangelism... But there is a difference in evangelistic hospitality and **Biblical hospitality**...

Evangelism is definitely **part of** hospitality, but it's not the only purpose!

Rosaria Butterfield speaks to this in her book when she says: *Evangelistic hospitality is done for the need of the lost. Radically ordinary hospitality is done **for the good of everyone—the host included**. Evangelistic hospitality burns out when people don't respond to the gospel with saving faith. Radically ordinary hospitality lives out your transparent, authentic faith before the watching world.*

Remember when you pursue the things of Christ you grow in your love for Christ... **Hospitality puts the gospel on display for your others, for your guests but also for you and your family!**

Let me ask you this... Are you modeling the gospel for your kids in your hospitality? How are you teaching them to view your living space?

3. My home is my refuge

This is a big one... Everything else is so crazy, my home is my safe space, it's my refuge, the calm in the chaos...

Here's the thing, no it's not... **Jesus is your refuge**- your home can't accomplish what you need in the crazy, and chaos, *it's just a space*... But Jesus can...

And think about the implications of this for people who don't have a home, or whose home **is everything but** calm in the crazy, of safe in the storm??

Listen, anything that you look to as your **refuge** other than Jesus is idolatry... We have to abandon this idea that our home is our refuge...

Your home is a tool that's been given to you by God to use for His glory in a way that reflects His values and love for the outsider...

Fear⁷ is another part of this my home is my refuge:

Rosaria Butterfield says that we are afraid of what will happen if we open up our homes. What it will expose our kids to! We think of our homes as **our safe castles**. (p. 228)

But the real danger is not what some stranger may introduce in our family, but the sin that grow in your kids hearts when they live only sheltered, self-centered lives.⁸

⁶ Christine Pohl, *Making Room*. Page 19.

⁷ Rosaria Butterfield, *The Gospel Comes with a HouseKey*.

⁸ Rosaria Butterfield, *The Gospel Comes with a HouseKey*. Via JD Greear, *There's Room at My Table*.

One pastor says: It's not stranger danger that's really dangerous—it's selfishness—isolation from the stranger, that really destroys.⁹

4. People are not projects

We can't see people as projects... I love how **Trevin Wax** parses this out... He holds up the idea of hospitality for the sake of **renewal**...

Hospitality is about welcoming people in for the sake of renewal—meeting physical needs with food, service and welcome but also about meeting the greatest need which is the spiritual need people have for Jesus...

Our hope is through hospitality, people would experience, and be renewed by Jesus and His gospel.

We want to see lives restored, and that respiration comes through the hope of Jesus!

And again, remember in this desire to see renewal... Hospitality is part of our renewal as well as remember the gospel.

Conclusion [VAMP]

Ok, so how should this look? Let me give you a summery...

One more time I am going to come back to Rosaria Butterfield who says:

We should be “*using your Christian home in a daily way that seeks to make strangers neighbors, and neighbors family of God*” (31). It requires a firm commitment to the authority of Scripture, covenant membership in a local church, and a willingness to let other people see the dirty laundry on your kitchen floor. Seriously. Regardless of how intimidated we may be to open up our home, budget, and

schedule to strangers, we must. “*Start somewhere, start today,*” she implores (p. 62).¹⁰

Maybe your current living situation makes it very difficult to do this... One person says it like this: *Go to someone else's house and become a stakeholder in the hospitality with them, you're still practicing hospitality.*¹¹

Honestly, **it's less about where, it's more about intentionality with the who**, and consistency to invest and invite into your space where every that may be...

Hospitality: The willingness to welcome people in who are outside your normal circle of friends. It's opening your life and your space to people who fall into at least one of these categories: they don't look like you, live like you, or believe the things that you do. For the purpose of showing them Jesus and pointing them to Jesus.

John Piper: says that way that we do this is by strategically asking: How can I draw the most people into a deep experience of God's hospitality by the use of my home or my church home?

Listen, here is the goal, we have to invite people into our lives, inviting them to not just to experience us, but to experience Jesus...

How can you be strategic...

- **We have key partnerships that we would love to get you connected to...**

Not going to name them because I don't want to label them or risk you viewing them in a way that doesn't bring dignity to the imago dei...

Foster Care

- **Partnering with people who do foster care**

⁹ JD Greear, *There's Room at My Table*.

¹⁰ Rosaria Butterfield, *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*. Page 31,62.

¹¹ Rosaria Butterfield, *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*.

Adoption

College Students

Stranger that you do not know

- *at work...*
- *in your neighborhood...*
- *At the gym...*
- *At the school or at you kids school...*

Go to the CONNECTION CENTER...

Challenge: Write down your next step or your person... I want to challenge each of you to engage in hospitality over the month of Aug. Find a rhythm...

1 Thessalonians 2:8 We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

We want this to be at the heart of who we are... ***Start with humility through the gospel and leads to hospitality...***

When we think about radical we think HUGE ministry and platform, we think impulsive, we think weird... Not the case...

Steve Timmis: *Jesus didn't start a program, a school, or have a crusade. He ate meals. Effective outreach involves ordinary people doing ordinary things with gospel intentionality.*¹²

Space to pray... Pastors/prayer team here... you come and seek the Lord with them...

Pray...

¹² Via Tony Merida, *Sent to Invite*.