

# Luke 14:15-24

## Answering the Call Pt.1

Image Church // The Gospel of Luke: Inverted Kingdom Wk. 22

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### Introduction

Good morning Image Family! I hope you're doing well, hey listen if you're **NEW** with us and want to get **more information** I want to invite you to stop by the **Connection Center**...

Also, **if you want to join in on what we're doing here at Image Church**, we would love to help you take a next step, and you can do that by stopping by our **connection center** tent right outside!

Talk about *Discover Image*...

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

As you're turning there, 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 consistent thing 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...*

Last week we looked at the first part of **chapter 14** where we saw that: **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.

And then Jesus fleshed that out by pointing us to **humility** part of the essence of the inverted Kingdom He came to proclaim, and a way of life for those that are citizens of God's Kingdom, and then He applied it further by calling us to hospitality...

- **Hospitality**- the love of strangers... Specifically those who are outside your circle, where there is no motivation for reciprocity— *including but not limited to the marginalized...*
- **This is what God did for us and we respond by doing it to others**

And this morning we're going to pick up in **verse 15**...

Keep in mind Jesus was invited over by to a religious leader's house...

- Awkward situation with the healing where Jesus calls out their hearts... More awkward- Jesus calls out the guests of the party, even more awkward Jesus calls out the host of the party...

Brings us to this moment here in **verse 15**... Where a guy, *bless his heart*, is just trying to break the tension in the room, only for Jesus to turn it into another teaching moment **that is incredibly important!**

### Luke 14:15-24

**15** When one of those who reclined at the table with him heard these things, he said to him, "Blessed is the one who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!"

So, you have this bro with no feel yells this right after Jesus had talked about how those that practice hospitality will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous...

And this dude is like *heck yeah*, and yells this as a *right on Jesus we can't wait to be at the resurrection of the righteous in God's Kingdom!*

*Picture: The drunk frat. guy at the bar holding up his glass?!? And everyone is like YEAH!!!*

This is almost comical at this point after all Jesus has said...

- **BTW** and how about Jesus' composure here after everything that's happened here at this meal... I know what I would have been doing...

**Listen, some of you are like this guy that yelled out-** you are just assuming you're good because you're religious, but in reality, that may not be true... for some of you the posture of your heart isn't surrender...

You're doing what you want with your life like the Pharisees and then tacking on some religion and then raising your glass and assuming that you're good...

Would each of us open our ears and our hearts today to see what God has to say to us through His Word this morning...

What you're going to see is a God who's extended an invitation to you with His arms open wide...

That regardless of where you've been, or what your life has been like- His invitation is still open to you...

*Can I get an Amen for a patient God who's grace no's no end!!*

The question is how will you respond?? Will you be like the Pharisee's missing what's in front of you, or will you see and receive God's invitation through Jesus...

For some of you, the invitation you have from God has lost its appeal... No motivation in the Christian life...

**Regardless of where you are at the end, I'm going to give you a chance to respond today...**

Ok, so here's what's about to happen...

Jesus is about to tell a Parable in response to the guy who blurted out with no feel, and it's going to be a weighty one for them and for us...

I told you the rest of the Journey through Luke is a difficult because Jesus is coming after our hearts and pulling at our idols and we don't like that...

And I will tell you what I told you last week, I don't want you to listen and feel burdened, I want you to listen and feel free...

What Jesus is pointing us to is Himself and in Him is everything our hearts crave- Jesus is extending to us an incredible opportunity, and incredible invitation- don't see it as anything other than that- would you open your heart today!

Here we go, here's the Parable...

**Verse 16** Then he told him, "A man was giving a large banquet and invited many. **17** At the time of the banquet, he sent his servant to tell those who were invited, 'Come, because everything is now ready.'

Now back then they didn't have Evites that they just emailed over...

Also, timing was an issue because everything for them everything was **catch, clean and cook...**

- *That's a real way to put together a meal... When the kids are older this is my dream to have all of our protein come from animals we've harvested!*

So, the way that it would work is that there were **two invitations...** The first was a *save the date*, and the second one was *its time, everything is ready!*

So, you have to understand the sense of the moment here...

- All the work has been done to prepare for banquet, dinner is ready
- *If I want to be rude to my wife I don't come when she says dinner is ready...*

Now let's look at how the invited guests respond...

**Verse 18** "But without exception they all began to make excuses. The first one said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. I ask you to excuse me.'

**19** "Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm going to try them out. I ask you to excuse me.'

**20** "And another said, 'I just got married, and therefore I'm unable to come.'

**21** "So the servant came back and reported these things to his master. Then in anger, the master of the house told his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in here the poor, maimed, blind, and lame.'

**22** "'Master,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, and there's still room.'

**23** "Then the master told the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges and make them come in, so that my house may be filled.'

**24** For I tell you, not one of those people who were invited will enjoy my banquet.' "

Ok, let's talk about what all this means and I want to start by keying in on **verse 24 where** Jesus plays His hand... The whole story has been in 3<sup>rd</sup> person and now He switches to first person and says:

**24** For I tell you, not one of those people who were invited will enjoy my banquet.' "

Jesus is the master in the parable...

And what Jesus is doing is depicting the **Kingdom of God**, specifically the inauguration of the Kingdom of God, where Jesus finishes what He started by bringing complete and total restoration to a broken world, making all things new... The resurrection was the start, this Banquet is the completion!

And the picture is a celebration where Jesus welcomes into His Kingdom those who used to be sinners separated from Him, as sons and daughters who are now citizens of His Kingdom through His finished work...

This is the inauguration of the Kingdom, a great banquet hosted by Jesus and celebrating Jesus, the Lamb that was slain...

This is going to be one heck of a party!!

And the point that Jesus wants us to see here as He speaks to the table, and as His Word speaks to us is that **not everyone will be at the party**... That many will refuse His invitation...

And so, **here's what we need to do**, we need to get at the *heart* of **why** people reject Jesus' invitation, and then we need to understand Jesus' stunning **response** to rejection... Both of these things have huge implications for our lives...

Let's look at **why** the invitation is rejected...

Jesus holds up 3 examples of excuses for their rejection... Let's look at them:

**3 excuses given:**

1. 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it.
2. I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm going to try them out.
3. I just got married, and therefore I'm unable to come

Now for starters you have to hear the outlandish nature of these excuses... This is how the religious leaders would have heard it...

**Field you have to see:** going to go look at the dirt? Play in it? Who buys a field before they see it anyway?!

**Five oxen you have to try out:** you can try them out anytime? Why now? You can't ride them... And you know what oxen do- they pull and they poop... And if you got 5 you got money- you aint the one that's going to run them anyway!

**Just got married:** *This dude is the funniest one- he doesn't even ask to be excused, he's just like I'm out and why?? You got married? It's a free dinner!?!*

Y'all know the feeling, how many of you have had some kind of crazy backout story from a friend that said they were coming to your event??

These are ridiculous excuses to give when you been invited to a banquet... Keep in mind this isn't like we can't come over for pizza tonight... Banquets were a big deal and took a lot of time and effort to pull off- remember **catch, clean and cook!**

This is just crazy... Obviously given these excuses in the parable they didn't understand the importance of the banquet or and they certainly didn't know the Master who was hosting... Otherwise they would have never been so flippant in their response...

**And this is where we begin to see Jesus' point!** He's showing them and us how this is exactly what many do when it comes to Jesus' invitation!

The Pharisee's had been invited to the party they were Jews, God's chosen people... **They had received the first save the date invitation and confirmed...** But now that Jesus is here and the Kingdom is at hand and dinner is ready- they turn down the invitation by rejecting Jesus!

Y'all listen, this parable also shows us that you have received an invitation to the party... Jesus has accomplished everything necessary for you seat at the table...

**The question is how will you respond???**

And this is such an important question- and my fear is that there are many that would say **yeah, I am good, I have prayed a prayer, I threw a rock in the water at youth camp, I nailed a list of bad things to a cross in High school...**

Assuming that just like these religious leaders you will be at the **Great Banquet**, but the reality is, that your life is one big excuse as to why they won't be there...

This gets more in our face when we look at the excuses that Jesus holds up in the Parable...

**Field, oxen, family...** Or you could say **work, possessions, and family...**

**Here's the thing I want you to see through these excuses...** It's not bad things that the biggest threat in keeping us from Jesus table, it's good things that become God things...

It's **preoccupation** with the gifts and responsibilities of God rather than God Himself...

**One scholar says it like this:** *God gave the land. God gave the oxen. God gave the bride. Sin takes the gifts and responsibilities God has given to us, and makes them excuses for avoiding God — an idolatry that is scarcely recognizable, often very religious, and almost incurable.*<sup>1</sup>

Our problem is that rather than **stewarding** the gifts God has given us for His glory, we make them the center of our lives, where we are more dictated and controlled by them more than we are dictated and controls by God...

**Let's talk about what that looks like...**

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<sup>1</sup> Marshall Segal, *What Dulls Your Appetite?*

**Work:** Job is my aim and it controls my life... I am more concerned about climbing the ladder or finding the right job than I am with following Jesus...

- If you spent the same effort on your job as you do on pursuing Jesus would you get fired?

**Possessions:** Are my aim- I am after a life of comfort over everything...

- Are you more concerned with getting to the right place in this life or the God of this life?
- A good indicator here is what you do with your money... Are you generous? Giving keeps us free of this distraction...

**Family:** My family pulls you away from God, and the things of God rather than pointing you to Him and bringing you to Him.

It is so easy to take these gifts and responsibilities that are from God and make them God...

**John Piper:** The most deadly appetites are not for the poison of evil, but for the simple pleasures of earth. For when these replace an appetite for God himself.<sup>2</sup>

Let me be clear, it's not that we abandon these things, but that these things don't dictate our life... They we are not more preoccupied with these things over God, His mission and His Church...

In fact, how you engage with the church is a good indicator of where you are right now...

- Bigger than the weekend- the church isn't an event...
- Jesus instituted the church to help
  - Hebrews 3:12, Hebrews 10:23

Practically what this means is that the way that you navigate **work, possessions, and family** is that we deal with them in light of the banquet invitation that we have received...

- **Flesh this out when it comes to work, possessions, and family...**

Some of you are rejecting the invitation of Jesus right now...

Now let's talk about Jesus' response to rejection and what this means for us...

**Look back at verse 21** "So the servant came back and reported these things to his master. Then in anger, the master of the house told his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in here the poor, maimed, blind, and lame.'  
**22** " 'Master,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, and there's still room.'  
**23** "Then the master told the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges and make them come in, so that my house may be filled.'  
**24** For I tell you, not one of those people who were invited will enjoy my banquet.' "

Here's what I want you to notice... **The host doesn't reschedule or change plans, he changes the guestlist...**

**The point Jesus is making:** The people who assume they will be at the table **will not be**, and the people who no one assumes will be at the table **will be**... This is the inverted Kingdom...

This text is so clear, it is another line in the sand from Jesus... I want to make sure that you understand this- there is an appeal here for the Christian- but the biggest point of application is to the one who thinks they are a Christian, but their life is a living excuse that says otherwise...

**Appel:** some of you need to hear this... You think you're good but you're not... Your life is evidence of that...

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<sup>2</sup> John Piper, *A Hunger for God*. Resource via Marshall Segal, *What Dulls Your Appetite?*

For some of you it will become clear today that ***you really don't understand the magnitude of the party and you don't understand the Lordship of the host!***

Here's what

It's a picture of the humility of Jesus who gave up His seat for us... It's a picture of the hospitality of God who invites in those who could never pay Him back... The poor, maimed, blind and lame...

These are those who recognize their condition...

Do you recognize your condition??

## **GOSPEL**

What I want you to see though, is that there is still room at the table... Your invitation is still out- the question is how will you respond... Will you turn away from the things of this world to the God of this world??

God desires that his house if full... He has made a way for you to be there through Jesus... Would you see and believe... There is nothing that you have to do in order to attend the party... It's all been prepared for you... You just receive the invitation...

**Christian**, some of you need to remember the invitation that you have received, some of you have said yes to the invitation from Jesus, but the way that you're living your life right now says otherwise...

Would you repent- repentance is truing to Jesus and embracing His work for you to provide your place at the table...

***There's one other thing here for the Christian...***

***Missional appeal:*** we see in the text that the servant is sent out a second time and told to ***make them come in...***

This is not about force, not about compelling them, but urging them to attend... It's about telling them who the host is!

## **Conclusion [VAMP]**

They way we're going to respond this morning is by coming to the table together...

- *Explain... make the connection*

***Fence the table...***

Call for repentance *at the altar* on your way to receive the elements...

Some of you need to turn to God for the first time, others of you need to turn back to God... you heart has gone wayward... You've been making excuses for why other things are more important than Jesus...