

Throw Better Parties

June 5, 2022

Scriptures: Luke 14, 15; Matthew 9:9-13

Bottom Line: Do you party like a pharisee, or do you party like Jesus?

The “Right” Party - Luke 14

- The pharisee's party had all the right people, and they thought they were celebrating the Kingdom of God
- Jesus' parable of the banquet shows how their party mistakes the values of the Kingdom of God, and gives honour to the wrong people

The “Wrong” Party - Matthew 9:9-13

- The pharisees judged Jesus for partying with all the wrong people
- Jesus' response is that the people He parties with are the ones who need, and are willing to receive, the Kingdom of God

The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32

- The pharisees are like the older son in the parable. Furious that someone they believe undeserving would be celebrated and welcomed by their Father

When we invite the people who the world wouldn't welcome, we are being neighbours to them, and we are welcoming them to experience the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom that no one deserves, but one that Jesus welcomes us into anyways.

How to Party Like Jesus

1. Party - Find reasons to celebrate. Make partying a thing that you do!
2. Invite the Wrong People - invite someone who would think twice about coming into a church, or someone the world overlooks
3. Then Celebrate Them - show people that, in the Kingdom of God, we're not just celebrated because of what we do, we're celebrated because we are children of God

LISTENING

Have someone in your group share something about their week. They could answer one or more of the following questions:

- What was a big challenge or problem you faced this week? How did you handle it?
- Where did you experience God this week? Or where do you wish you had experienced God this week?
- Based on your life experience this week, what do you think God is trying to teach you right now? What is He trying to build in you?

After the person shares, the group can respond. Make sure you let them know you heard them: tell them what you heard, offer wise advice where it's asked for, share from your own experience as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. What is the best party you've been to? What made it so good?
3. Do you think you'd criticize Jesus for the way He lived if He came in our time?
4. Do you tend to party like Jesus, or party like a pharisee?
5. Who could you invite to your next party? How could you celebrate them?