



Week #4: The Way of Invitation

One of the men sitting at the table with Jesus heard these things. The man said to him, “It will be a great blessing for anyone to eat a meal in God’s kingdom!”

Jesus said to him, “A man gave a big dinner. He invited many people. When it was time to eat, he sent his servant to tell the guests, ‘Come. The food is ready.’ But all the guests said they could not come. Each one made an excuse. The first one said, ‘I have just bought a field, so I must go look at it. Please excuse me.’ Another man said, ‘I have just bought five pairs of work animals; I must go and try them out. Please excuse me.’ A third man said, ‘I just got married; I can’t come.’

“So the servant returned and told his master what happened. The master was angry. He said, ‘Hurry! Go into the streets and alleys of the town. Bring me the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’

“Later, the servant said to him, ‘Master, I did what you told me to do, but we still have places for more people.’ The master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and country roads. Tell the people there to come. I want my house to be full! I tell you, not one of those people I invited first will eat any of this food I prepared.’”

Luke 14:15-24 (ERV)

What is Jesus teaching me through this story?

1. Admittance into God’s Kingdom requires my _____ to his invitation.
2. Excuses that can keep me from prioritizing God’s Kingdom.

- _____.
- _____.
- _____.

3. God's Kingdom breaks down my boundaries.

- _____ boundaries.
- _____ boundaries.
- _____ boundaries.

4. I have a responsibility to _____ into God's Kingdom.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had a pivotal moment when someone's invitation or act of kindness had a significant impact on your life? Are there individuals in your circle who may benefit from your invitation or support?
2. Who outside of your family, friends, and social networks can you invite to join you at your banquet table?
3. Have you received Jesus' invitation to his banquet? What keeps you from saying, "Yes"?

Recommended Resources

- <https://thewaysofjesus.com/devotionals>
- *Love Where You Live*, by Shauna Pilgreen
- *Neighborliness: Love Like Jesus. Cross Dividing Lines. Transform Your Community*, by David Docusen
- *Disruptive Compassion*, by Hal Donaldson, Et al.

ERV (Easy-to-Read Version)

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What is Jesus teaching me through this story?

1. Admittance into God's Kingdom requires my active response to his invitation.
2. Excuses that can keep me from prioritizing God's Kingdom.
 - Materialism.
 - Busyness.
 - Family.
3. God's Kingdom breaks down my boundaries.
 - Economic boundaries.
 - Social boundaries.
 - Cultural boundaries.
4. I have a responsibility to invite others into God's Kingdom.

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