

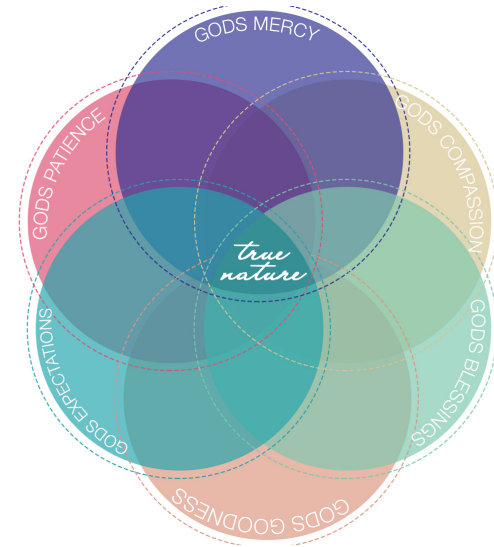
WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////



This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!)

We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your LIFEgroup. Although you can review it on your own, it will be most useful to you when processed with others!

1. Describe the setting around the best meal you have ever shared with others. What made the meal so special?
2. What did you learn about the custom of invitation in the Ancient Middle East? In the parable about the great banquet it seems that people are invited twice. Recall what is really taking place.
3. Why do you think two of the three excuses involved a preoccupation with material things?
4. Was the host justified in becoming angry? How does this parable suggest God responds in His anger?
5. What are four characteristics of God’s goodness that surface in this story? Which of the four is most encouraging to you?
6. Do you feel invited to commune with God? Does anything get in your way of fellowship with Him?
7. Is God leading you to invite someone into fellowship with Him by sharing Jesus with them?



June 25-26, 2016 | Open Invitation | Luke 14:15-24 | Steve Fish

Who is Invited?

“Love People. Cook them tasty food.” -bumper sticker wisdom-

Jesus shared the parable about God’s great banquet around the table.

Luke 14:1 One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

Luke 14:13-14a “But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed.”

God Prepares a Meal

The idea of a great, culminating banquet shared by those who anticipated the fulfillment of God’s kingdom originated prior to Jesus.

Luke 14:15 When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

Food is an everyday part of life. We think about food more than we might realize. God’s story of redemption is also focused on the sharing of a meal more often than we might regularly consider.

- Perfection: The Bible’s story begins in a garden. The only stipulation for the original man was in regard to what should not be eaten.
- Passover: A meal to remember every part of God’s deliverance.

- Promise: A land flowing with milk and honey.
- Provision: Manna - What is it?
- Presence: Communion through the blood and body of Jesus.
- Party: The Bible ends with a great wedding feast which signals the beginning of God's eternal kingdom.

God Invited Many

Luke 14:16 Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

A GREAT man throws a great banquet. His servants called on an extensive guest list. The original guest list included privileged people.

Customary Invitations

Those initially included as guests accepted the invitation to attend the banquet. They had RSVP'd.

Once the guest accepted the invitation, he was obliged to come. The size of the banquet meal was planned on the number of commitments received.

What appears to be a second invitation is more like the ringing of the dinner bell. Hear the words of a cowboy call out, "Come and get it."

"They All Alike . . ."

Luke 14:18a "But they all alike began to make excuses."

The response of the guests is surprising and most shocking. This is the turn in the story that would not be culturally expected or accepted.

Luke 14:18b The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

The excuse is a bold-faced lie: The buyer knows everything there is to know about his purchase. Land contracts were detailed precisely.

Luke 14:19 "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

The excuse stresses a false urgency: The call to the banquet meal would come at the end of the work day.

Luke 14:20 "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

The excuse ignored priority: The invitee would have known about marriage plans and would not have accepted the original invitation.

God has been snubbed. More than rejecting the invitation, the excuses show that the host has been CHALLENGED and insulted.

God's Response to Rejection: God Invited More

Luke 14:21 "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

God was ANGERED!

So, God invited people 'of the town' who were not privileged.

God Wants His House Full: God Invites More

Luke 14:22 " 'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' ²³ "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.

God's house is not FULL.

So, God goes to the remote places to find all who will come - the GENTILES. Though not forced He compels people to come by persistent insistence.

The Excusers are Excluded.

²⁴ I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.' "

The blame falls directly where it belongs. Those excluded have excluded themselves.

The Nature of God's Goodness

1. God PREPARES a meal.
2. God INVITES many, many.
3. Though angered, God RESPONDED to rejection with more grace.
4. God FILLS His house.