

# HARVEST TIME!

## *Fill My House*

### *Luke 14:16-24*

#### ***The Invite***

***[16] Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: [17] And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.***

- Luke 14 finds Jesus at the feast of the chief Pharisee
- When Jesus mentioned the resurrection (Luke 14:14), all of a sudden one of the Pharisees broke forth in joyful praise: "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God" (Luke 14:15).
- What the Pharisee meant was the "Jewish picture" of the great Messianic Feast.
- The Pharisee saw himself and the Jewish nation *only* as being invited to God's Great Supper.
- Jesus knew what was in the mind of the Pharisee, so He sets out to correct his misconception by telling the parable of the Great Supper
- This parable is about God's call to His people how they respond
- A certain man planned a great banquet and he invited many people
- It was customary to in those days to send *two invitations* to a party or dinner – one to announce the event and the other to tell the invited guests that the party was ready
- The guests that were invited to this great feast had been invited and they had said yes, they would attend
- These people had planned on participating in the Kingdom of God
- At supper time the master sent the servant out with the 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation for the people who had been invited to come to banquet because everything was *ready*
- Spiritually, this means God's plan of salvation through Jesus is fully prepared; Jesus' death and resurrection accomplished everything necessary for our salvation
- As servants of Jesus Christ, we are to tell men and women that all things are now ready; Jesus has purchased your salvation through His death and resurrection
- As servants of the Lord we are to invite those we know to come to and dine at the table of Jesus Christ

#### ***Excuses, Excuses, Excuses***

***[18] And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. [19] And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove***

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***them: I pray thee have me excused. [20] And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.***

- The people who had already been invited, suddenly all at once begin to make excuses for not coming to the banquet
- An “excuse” in this context is a “rationalization or reason” given to avoid accepting God’s invitation
- The invited guests seem to have more “important” things to do
- *Excuse #1 - I’m tied up in my business*
- The man had bought land and needed to look after it
  - The man had allowed the business concerns be the center of his life
- We will encounter people that are so caught up in their “business” and “busyness” that they have no time for a relationship with God
- *Excuse #2 - I’m tied up with my possessions*
- The man had just purchased oxen and wanted to try them out
  - The man had allowed material things keep him from God
- This excuse speaks of people who have allowed their possessions, “their toys”, and other things to keep them from coming to God
- *Excuse #3 - I’m busy with my relationships*
- The man had just gotten married and he was focusing his attention on his wife
  - He even said, “I cannot come”, or “I’m not coming”
- The man was saying his “temporary” earthly relationships mean more to him than *eternal* ones
- The problem with all three men was they were interested more in themselves than God
- In talking to people about Jesus, we will hear excuses like these and many others
- We have to be *ready* for, but not *discouraged* by the excuses of people
  - Skepticism excuse
  - Hurts of the past excuse
  - Self-sufficiency excuse
  - Church people excuse
  - Many paths excuse
- Despite the excuses, we must let people know that God’s invitation is the *most important* invitation of their life, regardless of how seemingly “inconvenient” the timing may be to them
- How can we address the excuses?
  - *Share your personal testimony*
  - *Listen to them*

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- *Meet their practical needs*
- *Engage the culture*

#### ***Go Quickly!***

***[21] So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.***

- The servant tells the master about all the excuses he received
- The master became angry because the invited guests to the banquet showed contempt and little concern about his invitation
- Just because the “invited” have excuses does not mean the banquet is *cancelled*
- Just because there are people who make excuses for not coming to Jesus, does not stop the *mission* of Jesus
- The master tells His servant to “go quickly” through the streets and lanes of the city and bring in *the poor, the maimed, the halt and the blind* in place of the people who made excuses
- God is calling us to “go out quickly” through our cities and bring the poor, the injured, the crippled, the blind
- Bring the people that others don’t want to be around or have around
- Bring the people overlooked by society; the homeless, those struggling with addictions, the isolated and the forgotten
- True evangelism must reach these people, not just those that seem “respectable” in the eyes of the world
- Bring the people that may need help to come
- The message of the gospel is for the *least of these*
- We are called to the broken, the forgotten, the lost by extending to them the hope of Christ
- Who can we bring to Jesus that needs help?

#### ***The Urgency of Evangelism***

***[22] And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. [23] And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.***

- The servant comes back to the master and says, “I’ve done what you commanded, yet there is room”

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- The servant sees what the Lord sees, space for more people at the master's table
- Do we see what God sees?
- Do we see opportunities to fill God's house with people that need Jesus?
- The master tells the servant to go out *again*, this time go to the highways and hedges to find whomever he can find
- He was telling the servant to *beyond* the normal Jewish community and bring in Gentiles, sinners, anyone to the banquet
- The highway is designed for *journeys*
- God is telling us to go wherever life takes us and invite people to know Jesus
- The hedges refer to *barriers*
- God is telling us *everyone* is invited to receive the message of Jesus Christ
- The master not only said go to the highways and hedges to reach people not considered worthy, but *compel* them to come in
- It means to compel by *love, compassion, persuasion, and urgency*
- The Lord wants us to use all the means we have to bring people to Jesus
- The master is saying two things:
  1. His house will be filled and when it's filled, those that were invited and rejected the Master shall not even taste of His supper
  2. The *servants* have the responsibility to keep going to the highways and hedges inviting and bringing people to Jesus
- We don't know *when* the house will be filled; we are to keep bringing people to Jesus until He returns
- We can't afford to wait, people are spiritually dying every day, and the banquet is ready *now*
- For us to fill the *house*, there must first be *room* in our *hearts* for lost people