

Invitation and Commitment of the Kingdom Luke 14:15-35

Parable of the Great Supper

¹⁵ Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!" ¹⁶ Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, ¹⁷ and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' ¹⁸ But they all with one *accord* began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' ¹⁹ And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' ²⁰ Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' ²¹ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. 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 here *the* poor and *the* maimed and *the* lame and *the* blind.' ²² And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' ²³ Then the master said to 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 to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

The Cost of True Discipleship

²⁵ Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish it—²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'? ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. ³³ So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple."

Uncommitted Discipleship is Worthless

³⁴ "Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? ³⁵ It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, *but* men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Questions:

1. What was the occasion for Jesus telling the parable of the great supper? What comment did one of those at the table make which seemed to show interest in the kingdom?
2. Jesus tells about a man announcing a great supper and inviting many -- who does this man represent in the parable? What would it say about people who would not show up for this invitation?
3. What kinds of excuses were given to the servant? Were these valid excuses to miss such a special invitation?
4. What would this response say to the man giving the supper? (Think: whom do these excuse-makers represent?) What would the master's attitude be to those who turned down his invitation? (vs 24)
5. What did the master say to do to find people for the feast? Why was even a third invitation given? (Think: whom do these people represent?) What does it mean to "compel" people to respond to the invitation?
6. What does Jesus say a person must do to be His disciple? (vs 26) How are we to understand the requirement to "hate" one's own family members? (It helps to compare this with Matt 10:35-38)
7. What else has Jesus said of bearing our cross? (Matt 16:24; Luke 9:23) What does this mean to bear our cross?
8. What two examples does Jesus give of counting the cost? (vs 28-32) Explain the point Jesus is making about what it takes to be a disciple? Is Jesus discouraging us from being disciples?
9. What sacrifice is required according to vs 33? Is there a connection of the level of commitment Jesus here speaks of to the excuses people made in the parable of the feast?
10. What did Jesus mean by the reference to salt that has lost its flavor? How does this relate to Jesus' point about true discipleship and counting the cost? (compare Matthew 5:13)