

The Gospel of Luke

The Danger of Complacency

Luke 14:15-24

1. **A Common Interpretation** (v.15)

The point of Jesus' prior parables was not lost on his audience; they understood that He was speaking about salvation. The pharisees are supremely confident that they will be present in the kingdom of God and partakers of its blessings (cf. Luke 11:38-44; 20:46).

2. **The Special Invitations** (vs.16-17)

The parable concerns a man who had graciously invited many neighbors to a significant dinner that he would soon be hosting. Whereas a wedding celebration would last for days and had a less definite start time (cf. Matt 22:2ff; 25:5-7), this was an invitation to a specifically scheduled dinner that he was hosting.

3. **Last Minute Cancellations** (vs.18-20)

Every one of the previously summoned guests give varying reasons for excusing themselves from attending at the last moment. The genuineness and importance of their various excuses is irrelevant; it is the triviality with which they view the dinner that is of concern (Luke 9:57-62; 10:41).

4. **Determined Solicitations** (vs.21-23)

The host is enraged by the refusals (cf. Matt 22:7) but is resolved to graciously fill the feast with any who would come (Luke 19:10; Acts 13:45-47; 18:6).

A. **Inviting the Undesirable** (v.21)

This is the same group of people who are unmistakably and intentionally absent from the present gathering but who ought to be invited (vs.13-14).

B. **Inviting the Foreigners** (v.23)

The invitation is now sent to those who are even more of an outsider than the previous group. The Jews understood that God's anger with them often coincided with Him specifically showing mercy to gentiles (Luke 4:23ff; cf. John 4:39-42).

5. **Jesus' Declaration** (v.24)

The Jews knew and were proud that they were uniquely blessed when God had chosen them and had given to them the Scriptures (Rom 3:1-2). Jesus graciously disabuses them of their common, but mistaken, interpretation that it would be on this basis that they would inherit God's eternal blessings (cf. Luke 13:30; 14:11; Matt. 20:16; 23:12).