



The Great Banquet

Luke 14:1-24

Following Jesus



Jesus at a Pharisee's Table

- ◆ Healing the man with dropsy
- ◆ The parable on places of honour
- ◆ Advice to the host on hospitality

..... Not a good start

The Blessing

- ◆ The Great Messianic Feast in the Old Testament
 - ◆ Isaiah's Vision (Is 25)
 - ◆ Psalm 23
- ◆ The loss of Isaiah's vision of inclusiveness
- ◆ Only Jews - Only the whole

*'O Lord, may we be among
the righteous and be
counted without blemish,
worthy to sit with them
of renown on that great
day'*

The slide features a decorative border of colorful confetti, including blue, purple, yellow, and grey shapes, scattered around the text.

The Parable of the Great Banquet

- ◆ The guests receive their invitations and accept
- ◆ “Come for everything is now ready”

The Excuses



- ◆ Real Estate Dealer
- ◆ Water supply
- ◆ Rainfall
- ◆ Drainage
- ◆ Crops
- ◆ Livestock
- ◆ History
- ◆ HOUSE

The Excuses



◆ Ploughing Contractor

- ◆ Ploughing strips

- ◆ Pace

- ◆ Weight

- ◆ Workload

- ◆ Responsiveness

 - ◆ USED CAR

The Excuses

- ◆ Passionate Bridegroom

- ◆ No request
- ◆ No wedding at the same time as the feast
- ◆ Impolite
- ◆ hrm

Woman, sacred, forbidden

- ◆ Strong sexual overtone....



The slide features a decorative border composed of various colorful elements including streamers in shades of blue, purple, yellow, and grey, as well as small diamond-shaped confetti pieces scattered throughout. The title "The Excuses" is centered at the top in a large, black, sans-serif font.

The Excuses

- ◆ They are stupid, insulting and show a contempt for the host of the feast
- ◆ No wonder he is angry!!
- ◆ But his anger leads to grace
- ◆ Outcasts are invited in - indeed “strongly encouraged” to come



The second round of invitations

- ◆ The **Blind** don't go to 'see' fields
- ◆ The **Lame** don't test out oxen
- ◆ The **Maimed** don't get married
- ◆ The **Poor** cannot repay kindness or the honour of being invited to a feast
- ◆ Those of the town and countryside invited in

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Jesus' message

- ◆ The desire to eat with the Messiah at the great banquet is wonderful
- ◆ But if you wish to associate with him then you must join with him now
- ◆ This means joining him in his mission of spreading 'good news', healing, caring..
- ◆ The excuses of Sabbath laws, material things, other relationships are insulting to God

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Lessons from the Great Banquet

- ◆ Joining with Jesus
- ◆ Significant place given to the needy
- ◆ We need to examine our excuses with care
- ◆ Acceptance of the invitation means becoming a servant with a message



Questions for reflection

- ◆ Where do you sense God is at work in and around our communities?
- ◆ What things stop us from seeing and joining with God's activity?
- ◆ Where are the 'lanes and by-ways' in your community?
- ◆ What are you taking away from these two parables?



The Great Banquet

..... A Surprise Party

The Great Banquet

Luke 14:1-24

- ◆ A party goes badly wrong
 - ◆ Jesus heals on the Sabbath
 - ◆ A parable on places of honour
 - ◆ Some advice for the host
- ◆ Someone gives a blessing
 - ◆ Isaiah's vision (Is 25)
- ◆ Jesus tells the 'Banquet' parable
 - ◆ **Both invitations go out**
 - ◆ **Excuses come in**
 - ◆ The Real Estate Agent
 - ◆ The Agricultural Contractor
 - ◆ The Passionate Bridegroom
 - ◆ **Outcasts are graciously invited**



Lessons from Great Banquet

- ◆ Personal invitations are out for the Kingdom banquet - have you sent in your RSVP?
- ◆ Acceptance of Jesus' invitation means a willingness to associate with him in his activity now....
- ◆ Our excuses can often be short-sighted and selfish, even insulting to God - we need to be warned!
- ◆ Saying Yes! to Jesus....