

The Great Banquet

Intro to Christianity & Jesus

Christians believe that humans have decided to follow our own desires and turn away from God; turning away from God is what the Bible calls sin, and the consequence of sin is death. Because Jesus really loves us, He came to take our place of punishment—that is why he lived on earth, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Not only did he come to die for us, He also came to understand what it is like to be in this world, and to teach us how to live. Very often, He taught through stories, called *parables*, where the characters and things symbolize something and show us what God and His family is like.

Introductory Questions

1. Think of a time when you were invited somewhere and you didn't go but regretted your decision later. Share this experience.
2. Think of a time when you made plans for your friends to hang out but your friends didn't come—how did you feel? Share this experience.

Reading the Text

- **Luke 14:15-24** (Context: Jesus was at a dinner and had just taught them to invite those who cannot repay, which is uncommon in their society.)

Discussion Questions

3. Any vocabulary you do not know?
4. What is the man like?
 - Describe his personality (generous, purposeful, persevering, etc.)
 - Describe his actions (His search and invitation, that he does not give up, etc.)
 - Describe his reaction (Background of banquet: 2nd round of invitation to people who responded yes; knew long before the event & other commitments, the host' strong feelings are understandable, etc.)
5. Who do you think the man symbolizes?

6. Who do you think the banquet symbolizes?

7. What about the people who said “no,” and the people who said “yes”? What do they symbolize?

Summary

Through parables, we learn of God’s nature—He is generous & desires to invite each and every person to His banquet, even those who aren’t usually included. His banquet symbolizes heaven; saying yes to the banquet symbolizes accepting Him as our Savior and joining Him in heaven—the best banquet. Some of us here have accepted the invitation but others have not.

Final Question

8. What would you like to receive from God this week?