

## THE GREAT BANQUET (Luke 14:16-24)



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*“Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering round to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them.” Luke 15:1-2 (NIV)*

A defining characteristic of Jesus' ministry was his association with TAX COLLECTORS and SINNERS.

These were people who were RITUALLY UNCLEAN and NOT WELCOME in the religious community.

*“Then Jesus said to his host, ‘When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’” Luke 14:12-14 (TNIV)*

Jesus calls us to associate with people LESS FORTUNATE than we are.

### The Parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:16-24)

*16 “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. 17 At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’*

Jesus' picture of the Christian life was A PARTY.

*18 “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’*

*19 “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’*

*20 “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’*

The excuses are not busyness but OUTRIGHT LIES and an INSULT to the host.

*“Listen, my friend, if you do not want to be with God, it is not because you are too busy; but because you do not like God, do not want God and you had better face that fact.” Al-Ghazzali, Arab mystic*

*21 “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’*

Streets and alleys were where BEGGARS gathered.

*22 “‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ 23 “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. 24 I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’ “*

### What does the parable say about God?

1. God has a heart for people we tend to OVERLOOK.
2. If we fail to heed God's call, God will LOOK ELSEWHERE.

### Where are we in the story?

We are THE SERVANTS who have been commanded to “compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.”