



# THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE

*Week 2: The King's People | Teacher: Haley Terry  
Sermon Questions for 3.1..2026*

## OPENER

In this sermon from Gospel of Luke 14, we see Jesus confront distorted views of God's Kingdom through healing, teaching, and the parable of the Great Banquet. Speaking into a culture shaped by honor, exclusivity, and religious striving, Jesus reveals a Kingdom marked by humility, grace, and radical invitation. The central question becomes not who is invited—but what we are doing with our invitation.

## READ

Luke 14

## MAIN POINTS

### **1. Jesus Confronts Legalism with Mercy (Luke 14:1–6)**

At a Pharisee's house, Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath, exposing the gap between outward obedience and the heart of God. The Pharisees had built layers of extra rules around God's law in an attempt to ensure purity, believing the Kingdom belonged to the ritually clean and morally precise. In healing the man, Jesus reveals that mercy has always been central to God's law. Their commitment to rule-keeping had caused them to miss God's compassion. The Kingdom is not about earning righteousness; it is about receiving grace.

### **2. Jesus Redefines Honor and Status (Luke 14:7–11)**

When Jesus observes guests seeking seats of honor at the banquet, He tells a parable about choosing the lowest place. In an honor/shame culture, status meant proximity to power and recognition. The Pharisees assumed that in God's coming Kingdom they would occupy the seats closest to the host. Then Jesus declares a reversal: those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. In God's Kingdom, humility, not status will determine greatness.

### **3. Jesus Expands the Guest List (Luke 14:12–14)**

Jesus then instructs the host to invite the poor, the lame, and the blind. People who cannot repay the favor. This radically challenges a social system built on reciprocity and advantage. The Pharisees believed they honored God by separating from the

“unclean.” Jesus teaches that Kingdom hospitality moves toward the marginalized, not away from them. The Kingdom is not an exclusive spiritual club; it is a gracious invitation to those who recognize their need.

#### **4. The Parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:15–24)**

In response to assumptions that the religious elite already had guaranteed seats at God’s table, Jesus tells the parable of a host whose invited guests refuse to attend. Their excuses symbolize a deeper rejection. Though they believed themselves entitled to the Kingdom, their actions reveal refusal of the true invitation which is Jesus Himself.

Rather than canceling the banquet in anger, the host extends the invitation further—to the poor within the city and then to those outside it. This signals both God’s heart for the outcast and foreshadows the widening of the gospel beyond Israel. The Pharisees operated with a scarcity mindset, assuming limited seats reserved for the deserving. Jesus reveals abundant grace and a table with more room.

#### **5. Two Kingdoms in Contrast**

The sermon contrasts two competing kingdoms:

- In the Pharisees’ kingdom: hierarchy, exclusivity, ego, and legalism reign.
- In God’s Kingdom: grace, humility, restoration, and belonging reign because

Jesus is King.

The Pharisees were not immoral villains; they were deeply religious people whose pride and cultural values distorted their vision of God’s heart. They treated Jesus as a guest instead of recognizing Him as King. As a result, they missed the present reality of the Kingdom breaking in before them.

#### **6. The Invitation for Today**

The Kingdom is not merely a future destination but God’s active rule breaking into the present. Believers are called not only to accept the invitation but to extend it. The question shifts from “Who is invited?” to “What are you doing with your invitation?”

## **ENGAGE WITH GOD IN A GROUP**

- In the story of Jesus healing on the Sabbath, what does this reveal about the difference between legalism and God’s heart? Where might we confuse rule-following with true obedience?
- Jesus teaches that those who exalt themselves will be humbled. How does our culture encourage self-exaltation? What might humility look like in your current season of life?
- In the parable of the Great Banquet, people decline the invitation with excuses. What are some modern-day “excuses” that keep people from fully embracing life in God’s Kingdom?

- Think about your literal or metaphorical dinner table (friend groups, rhythms, social spaces). Who is missing? What would it look like to intentionally widen the invitation?
- The sermon contrasted earthly kingdom values (exclusivity, pride, tribalism) with Kingdom values (grace, humility, invitation). How do you see and experience earthy kingdom values in your life? Where do you see Kingdom of Heaven values in your life? Which set of values do you see more evident in your life right now? Why?
- The Kingdom is not just future it is breaking in now. Where might God be inviting you to extend mercy, hospitality, or belonging this week?

## **BOTTOM LINE**

*In the Kingdom of God, there is always more room at the table—and the only requirement is to sit down in humble surrender to the King.*