



September 16, 2018

To enjoy the rare tastes of God's table, you must stop stuffing your stomach with the local cuisine.

- John Piper

Primary Text: Luke 14:12-24

1. Pray (2 mins)

Pause. Acknowledge you are about to open God's word.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate His word.

2. Warm-Up (20 mins)

Prepare our minds to receive.

- How was the homework assignment? Any discoveries you would like to share?
- When reflecting on the message this past Sunday, what most resonated with you?

3. Illuminate (30 mins)

On the reverse side of this page you will find our text. Use this page to circle/underline/connect.

- Let's correctly set the context for proper understanding. In the beginning of chapter 14, there is a dinner, a wedding feast and a great banquet? How can we sort this out?
- Jesus once again diminishes and discourages the desire to be repaid. Why does he say this in this context? When and how does repayment happen in the economy of God?
- Verse 15 seems to break the ice...a comforting statement to break the awkward silence in the room. Does Jesus change the tone after this statement is made?
- Those who made excuses seemed to not really prize the invitation. What does this invitation really represent? What can we learn from the excuse-makers in this parable?
- What conclusions can we draw from this parable?
- The truths of the Bible are meant to be shared. Let's close our Bibles and notes and try to walk through this text together as a group from memory.
- Does everyone feel confident in their understanding of this text? Any questions we need to research to answer next week?

4. Pray (10 mins)

Learn about prayer. Close in prayer.

Nothing seems to be too great, too hard, or too difficult for prayer to do. It has obtained things that seemed impossible and out of reach. It has won victories over fire, air, earth, and water. Prayer opened the Red Sea. Prayer brought water from the rock and bread from heaven. Prayer made the sun stand still. Prayer brought fire from the sky on Elijah's sacrifice. Mary Queen of Scots said, "I fear John Knox's prayers more than an army of ten thousand men."

- R.C. Sproul on the Power of Prayer

TEXT: Luke 14:12-24 (The Parable of the Great Banquet)

¹² He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

¹⁵ When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” ¹⁶ But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. ¹⁷ And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ ¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ ¹⁹ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’ ²⁰ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ ²¹ So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’ ²² And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ ²³ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

HOMEWORK: Ready your heart for Sunday ([Ready resources - warrenbaptist.org/ready](http://warrenbaptist.org/ready)).

1) Read Luke 15:11-24 (Parable of the Prodigal Son) below.

¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

2) What do you think Jesus’ main message was in this text? Any questions you need to research further?
