

NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Supplemental Texts

Due 20:5-7; Pss 118:22-24; Isa 25:6-8; Matt 3:2; 21:33-46; 26:26-29; Mark 1:15; Lk 13:29-30; 14:13; Acts 13:46-48; Rev 19:6-9

Study Summary

In response to a comment on the feast of God's Kingdom, Jesus gives a parable about responding to God's gracious invitation. He denotes who will be invited and who will actually get to attend the banquet.

Historical & Theological Background

God's Kingdom: Jesus spent much of His earthly ministry preaching, and His main topic was the Kingdom of God. God's Kingdom is the acknowledgement and assertion of His power and authority. It is creation as it is meant to be: surrendered to the Creator. While many of the Israelites were looking forward to the establishment of an earthly king through which God would assert His power over the nations, Jesus revealed that the Kingdom is "God's rule in action," a whole new sphere created by God's salvific work in the lives of men and women. Jesus taught that in Him the Kingdom has come, seen in "the authority with which He combated evil." His acts of healing were not "interruptions of causal connections within natural law, but" "manifestations of the Kingdom of God." In His preaching and miracles, Jesus was restoring creation, setting things right, loosing the bonds of Satan, and pointing forward to His final victory on the cross, which will be consummated when He returns to establish His Kingdom in its fullness. In this sense there is a present and future reality to the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom is present in the continued activities of the Savior and His people throughout the world in and by the Spirit. Yet, there remains a final establishment of God's Kingdom in the future when Christ returns to make all things new and unite heaven and earth. The banquet of the Kingdom is an image of the joy and celebration that will encompass all things when God's reign is established in its fullness. It was anticipated in the OT (Isa 25:6-8) and revealed in the NT to be the wedding feast of Jesus and His Church (Rev 19:6-9).

[Works referenced and cited: Howard Marshall, *The Gospel of Luke: A Commentary on the Greek Text*; Leon Morris, *Luke: An Introduction and Commentary*; Horst Robert Balz and Gerhard Schneider, *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament*; NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible, GE D.A. Carson]

DISCUSSION PRIMER

Take some time this week to read Luke 14:15-24 slowly and prayerfully. Ask yourself these questions: Am I living for the world to come or for the things of this world? How am I sharing God's invitation with others?

TEXTUAL INVESTIGATION

LUKE 14:15-24

**Big Idea: Responding to God's Gracious Invitation**

**Fallen Condition Focus: Rejection, Distraction, and Pride**

- What is the broader context that this parable fits in? Why would the man in 15 make a comment about the Kingdom banquet after Jesus' instructions in 12-14? (See Vv. 15 & 14:1, 7, 12-14)
- What is the feast of the Kingdom (15)? (See Isa 25:6-8; Rev 19:6-9 & HTB)
- Who is initially invited to the banquet/feast (16)?
- What excuses do the guests make as to why they can't come (17-20)?
- How does the man throwing the banquet respond (21-23)?
- What is the consequence of refusing the invitation? Who might the highwaymen represent (23-24)? (See Acts 13:46-48)

**Gospel Connection:** Read Pss 118:22-24 and Matt 26:26-29. How has Jesus won for us a seat at the table of the Kingdom?

TEXTUAL INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- What things does our society highly value? How do those values weigh against matters of eternity?
- How have you responded to God's gracious invitation? What might it look like to extend this invitation to others around you?
- What do you value? How do those values line up with the hope we have in Christ? With the values of His Kingdom?
- What things are distracting you from participating in what God is doing in our midst? From the future we are promised in Christ?
- How might you grow in your devotion to the work of the Kingdom come and coming? (See HTB)

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read *Luke 14:15-24* and explore together what the passage reveals about:

- |                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ?    |
| 2) The fallen human condition?        | 5) Our obedience to Christ?   |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ?        | 6) Our relationship to others |

TEXTUAL APPLICATION: "So, what now?"

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

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|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • a command to obey?  | • a beauty to behold?  | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe?  | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell?     |