



friendship
community church

He is King

Luke 14:1-24

Week of February 2-8, 2020

Ask, What is the most human thing about you? (Don't necessarily steer the group for a particular answer. Some may answer in a spiritual sense while others may answer in a physical sense. Either is okay. Just see where the question leads.)

Luke 14:1-24

"One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" And they could not reply to these things. Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." 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. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just." 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!" But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. 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.' 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.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' 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.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' 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. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'" Luke 14:1-24 ESV

Four parables here that are different in form.

In this particular case, Jesus does not respond to a question but launches in to these parables. Jesus quizzes them with the law. (Remember they were experts in the law too.)

Ask, What kind of questions do you shy away from? What kind of questions do you like to ask?

In these verses, we see Jesus using parables to instruct, warn, and encourage.

It is human nature to be:

- Indifferent (1-6) - the man with dropsy (liberal specificity) What do you think Michael means by using the term liberal specificity?
- Arrogant/insecure (7-11) the seating of honor and possible humiliation- afraid we will not be noticed. Anyone ever been guilty of this?
- Transactional (12-14) - beware inviting people to a dinner in order for you to get invited back. Why do you think so much of our lives are based upon transactional relationships?
- Making excuses (15-24) What is the last excuse you used? How did it work out?
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Jesus instructed the Pharisees to be:

- Compassionate - to act kindly and not out of their natural default.
- Humble/secure - your place at the feast should be enough.
- Charitable – giving and serving because that reflects God’s heart.
- Surrendered - to the call of the Kingdom, to do the work of the kingdom - inviting others rather than immediately disqualifying others because they did not fit the mold.

Jesus instructed them this way because they were none of these things.

In these verses, the initial guests were the Jews but they made excuses so the master invites everyone else.

Just a reminder of the desire here at Friendship -

- Everybody’s welcome. This means everyone.
- Desire to grow – Attenders and members have a desire to make disciples who make disciples.
- Make the effort to grow - Attenders and members are putting the desire to grow in action.

Here are the takeaways for us as individuals and a church family.

- Grow in compassion
- Grow in humility/security
- Grow in charity - non-transactional (expecting nothing in return)
- Grow in surrender - stop making excuses for why you cannot be in community

Take time to share prayer requests and to pray together.