

Dinner with Jesus 3
The Invitation to the Feast
Luke 14:1–24

Introduction: God's kingdom is open to all who respond to His invitation.

I. Healing at the table – Confronting cold-heartedness with compassion (Luke 14:1–6)

A. The legalist and the Sabbath -

1. Jesus is invited to a Pharisee's Sabbath meal (v.1), where a man with dropsy is strategically placed before Him (v.2).
2. Jesus challenges the religious leaders with a question about lawful healing on the Sabbath (v.3).

B. The Lord and the Sabbath -

1. Despite their silence, Jesus heals the man and rebukes their hypocrisy (vv.4–6).
2. Matthew 23:24 – Pharisees strained at gnats and swallowed camels.
3. Galatians 5:14 – "Love your neighbor as yourself."
4. Romans 13:10 – Love fulfills the law.

C. The Lesson - People matter more than our policies. Our compassion must stretch beyond tradition.

- If Jesus disrupted custom to help someone, so must we.
- Vision Tie-in: "Straining to Love" means choosing mercy over man-made barriers. Every hurting person deserves a seat at Christ's table.

II. Humility at the Table – Choosing the Lowly over Loftiness (Luke 14:7–14)

A. The position of the guests -

1. Jesus notices guests seeking status and tells a parable about taking the lowest seat (vv.7–11).
2. "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled..." (v.11).

B. The parables of Jesus

1. Jesus instructs hosts to invite the poor and needy, not just friends or the elite (vv.12–14).
2. James 4:6 – God opposes the proud.
3. Proverbs 25:6–7 – Let others exalt you.
4. Romans 5:8 – Christ loved us while we were still sinners.
5. Philippians 2:5–7 – Jesus humbled Himself to serve us.
6. True humility is seen in how we treat those who can't repay us. Kingdom hospitality prioritizes people, not prestige.
7. Vision Tie-in: "Every Chair Filled" includes seats for the marginalized. We don't just love those who love us—we love like Christ loved us.

III. Host of the table – Calling the lost to the Lord's banquet (Luke 14:15–24)

A. Excitement about the kingdom banquet -A guest praises the idea of God's kingdom feast (v.15), prompting Jesus to tell the Parable of the Great Banquet. *Apparently, he's assuming everyone present will, of course, be there.*

B. Explanation of the kingdom banquet -

1. Many initially invited guests make excuses (vv.16–20).
2. The master then invites the poor, crippled, blind, and lame (v.21) and later sends servants to highways and hedges to compel others to come (vv.22–23).

C. Jesus emphasizes who's in and who's out -None of those who rejected the invitation will taste the banquet (v.24).

1. John 3:18 – Those who reject Jesus are already condemned.
2. Matthew 21:31 – The unlikely enter the kingdom ahead of the religious.
3. Mark 16:15 – Preach the gospel to all creation.
4. 2 Peter 3:9 – God desires none to perish.
5. Revelation 7:9, 19:7, 19:9 – The ultimate marriage supper of the Lamb.

• **This parable isn't just about Israel** - God's invitation is extended to everyone. The tragedy is not rejection, but excuses. We must be like the servant—urgently and lovingly inviting others.

• Vision Tie-in: "Every Heart Engaged" means we don't rest until the table is full. Evangelism isn't optional—it's our joyful mission.

- Have you responded to the invitation?
- Who are you inviting to the table?
- Will you choose compassion, humility, and urgency in your walk with Christ?

Challenge: Let's not let anyone miss out on the feast because we failed to invite them. Let us each say, "Lord, I'm coming to Your banquet – and I'm bringing others with me."

(Luke 14:17) "Come, for everything is now ready."

Vision 2026: **Straining to Love: Sharing the Table of Christ Mission: Every Chair Filled, Every Heart Engaged**