

AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: "Invitation to God's Great Feast" Luke 14

Scripture of Lesson: Luke's Gospel 14: 15-24

1. *God is a faithful Provider and Sustainer:*

- A. In this parable, Lord Jesus speaks of "a certain man," who refers to His Father, the God of Heaven and Earth. He brings God down to the human level so that the people who were listening to Him could easily understand God's plan for the humanity. Lord Jesus describes God the Father as the Provider and Sustainer of all His creation, particularly of all humanity.
- B. What is the significance of "a great supper/ feast"? Some of the major events in the bible included dining events. When God prepared the Garden of Eden, He planted many fruit trees of which fruits Adam and Eve could eat to enjoy and to sustain their life.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." [Gen. 2: 16-17]

After the flood, God gave all animals as food to Noah and his children along with herbs (vegetables and fruits). This indicates a change in allowed diet for the humanity after the Great Flood.

Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. [Gen. 9: 3-4]

- C. In Exodus 12, we read of the Passover Supper, during which the people of Israel ate a young lamb prior to their deliverance from their bondage of slavery. During their 40-year journey in the Arabian wilderness, the people of Israel were fed with manna and bird meat by God who fed them faithfully without failure until they reached the Promised Land. Moreover, the 70 elders of Israel saw God and ate before the Lord on Mount Horeb while they were in the wilderness.

Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank. [Exo. 24: 9-11]

This experience of dining before God's very presence was a precursor of the feast God is planning for His children in heaven in the eternity's time.

- D. Before His suffering and death on the cross, Lord Jesus ate a Passover Supper with His disciples in a home in Jerusalem. During this supper, often called "the Last Supper," He instituted the "Lord's Supper," which has been kept by faithful Christians in memory of His suffering and death as the Passover Lamb for the redemption of our sins. Before His ascension to heaven, Lord Jesus had a simple breakfast with His disciples by a lakeshore. This was the last meal He shared with them. But, thanks to this parable of the great supper and the many meals they had with Him, the disciples knew that they would surely have the privilege to take part in the great supper in heaven that will last through eternity with their Lord and God the Father.

Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"—knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. [John 21: 11-13]

2. **God has been sending out invitations for His great supper in heaven:**

- A. What is God's great supper/feast?** In Matt 22: 1-3, Lord Jesus spoke of this great supper as "the wedding feast." In Luke 12: 36, Lord Jesus indicates that He will return from His wedding feast to the earth, looking to see how His servants are keeping their duties. Apparently, the feast/supper in all the three parables is the same great feast of the Lamb's wedding, which is to take place in heaven after the Rapture event:

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thundering, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" [Rev. 19: 6-9]

This is the wedding feast, which Lord Jesus was referring in the parable in Matt 22, Luke 12 and Luke 14.

- B. Who were invited?** At first, the invitations were apparently given to "whole" people, who did not have deficiencies. This indicates that God's salvation was offered mainly to the Jewish people, who were made whole through the Mosaic Law. When they refused and rejected the invitation, it was then given to "the poor, the maimed, the halt and the blind." These people had deficiencies in them, indicating sinful, rejected and socially unfit people including the Gentiles. So, we see a major change in God's invitation plan because of the rejection by the Jewish people.

Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. [Acts 13: 46]

- C. People's excuses for rejecting the Gospel's invitation:** In this parable Lord Jesus cited three common excuses the people used for rejecting the invitation. In all three cases the people lacked fear and respect of the One who invited them to His wedding feast:

- The first excuse was *'I have bought a piece of ground and I must go see it.'* [v. 14: 18] This man has already bought the ground and was so excited and enamored about it that he put this plan more important than accepting the invitation. This is a matter of wrong business priority, which is a common problem for people refusing to come to a Bible Study or church to listen to the word of God because of business reasons.
- The second excuse was *'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'* [v. 14: 19] This man has already bought the oxen and have them in his animal pen safe. He could test them the next day with no pressing requirement. He says, *"I am going to test them."* Again, his personal priority weighted more important than the invitation of the Lord.
- The third excuse was *'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'* [v. 14: 20] This person could have taken his wife to the feast for both to enjoy. Yet, he allowed his family plans take priority over the invitation. Are family plans and programs are important than going to the church to us?

Discussion topics:

1. *Are we placing our business, personal or family plans and requirements at a higher level than our time with Lord Jesus? Let us examine our priorities and reset them correctly so as to respond to God's invitation daily.*
2. *Are there things in our life that repeatedly hamper our spiritual progress and our personal fellowship with God? If so, how can we eliminate such things?*