

A photograph of a formal banquet. A long, dark wooden table is set with white plates, glassware, and silverware. The table is decorated with large, elaborate floral arrangements featuring pink and red flowers and green ferns. Several ornate gold candelabras with multiple lit candles are placed along the table. Guests, mostly men in tuxedos and some women in formal attire, are seated on both sides of the table. The setting appears to be a grand hall with a red carpet and a patterned rug. The text "The Great Banquet" is overlaid in large white letters, and "Parables #4 – Luke 14" is overlaid in smaller white letters below it.

The Great Banquet

Parables #4 – Luke 14

1. What's Your Attitude?

- Jesus was the guest of a prominent Pharisee.
- People were vying for honoured seats
- Your actions demonstrate your attitude.

2. What is the Feast?

Luke 14:15 *When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”*

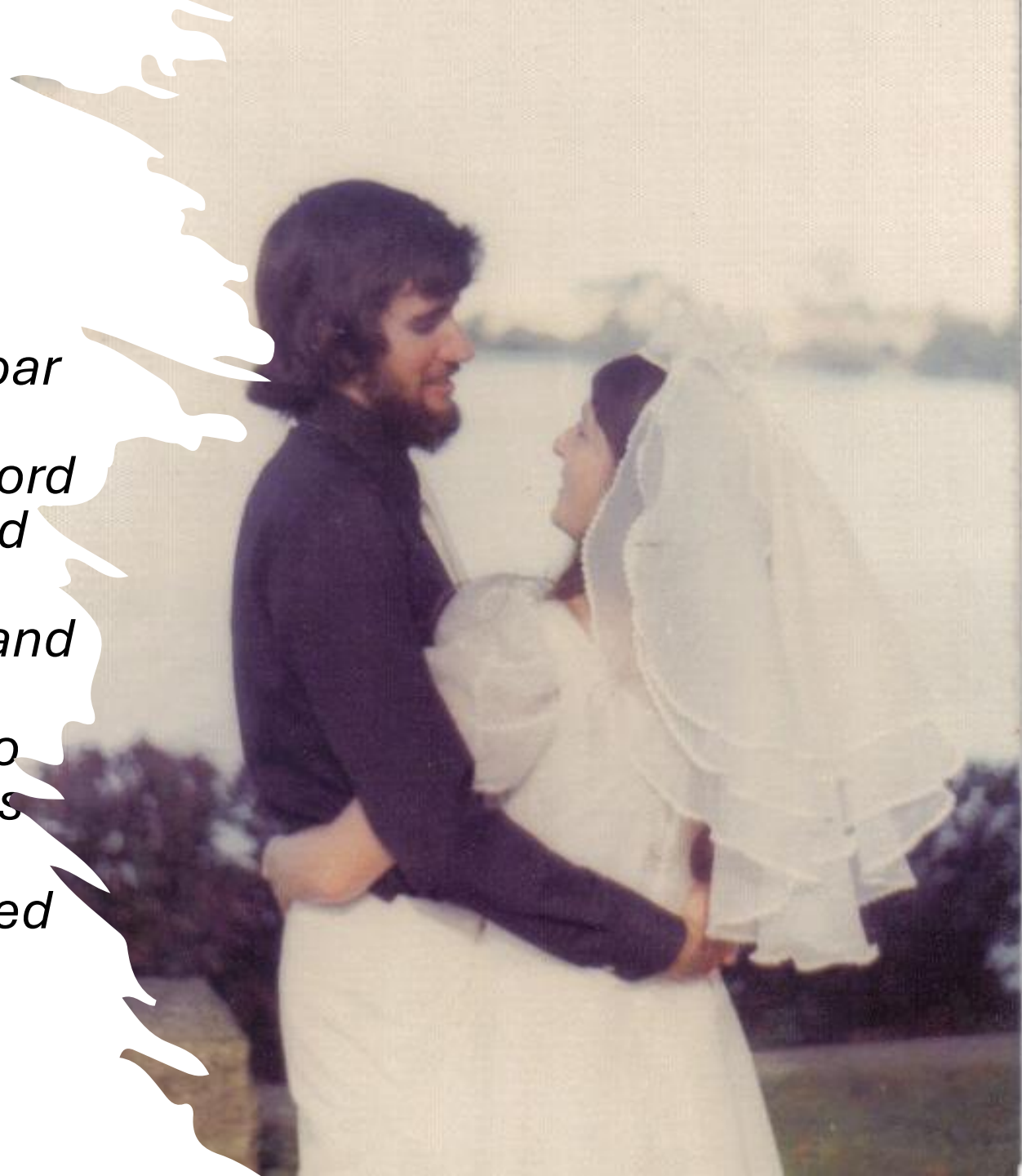


2. What is the Feast?

Revelation 19:6-9 *Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God reigns! Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!*

For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, brought and clean, was given her to wear!" (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

Then the angel said to me: "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."



3. The Response

Luke 14:17-20 *At the time of the banquet, he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' 'But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' 'Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' 'Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'*



Attribute	Excuse	Reason
Intent	To avoid blame or responsibility	To explain or justify an action logically
Tone	Defensive, often self-serving.	Neutral, factual
Honesty	May involve exaggeration or dishonesty	Typically, honest and transparent
Accountability	Shifts blame or deflects responsibility	Accepts responsibility and offers clarity
Validity	Often seen as invalid or weak	Based on facts, logic or sound judgement
Reception	May be dismissed or criticized.	More likely to be accepted and resolved.

3. The Response

- Excuses indicate misplaced priorities
- Servant then sent to marginalised and disadvantaged.

Luke 14:23 *Then the master told his servant, “Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.”*

4. The Cost

- Hyperbole – deliberate and obvious exaggeration to make a point.
- In Luke 15:26-27, Jesus uses exaggeration to get our attention.



4. The Cost

- Do you love me more than....
- What comes first in my life?
- Am I prepared to suffer for Jesus?

Luke 14:33-34 *In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has, cannot be my disciple. Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?*

The 'righteous acts of the saints'
depend on choices we make.