

THE GREAT BANQUET

#4 Parables – Luke 14

Introduction: Queensland Police Commissioner's story (diagnosed with terminal cancer; subsequent recovery.)¹

- In every day life, there are choices and consequences.
- Parable of the great Banquet Luke 14:16-24

1. What's Your Attitude?

- Give background to parable:
 - Jesus was a guest of a prominent Pharisee
 - As per the culture, food was involved
 - Jesus noticed that people were trying to get to the most honoured seats
- Actions demonstrate attitude: Remember brother to the prodigal son?
 - His temper showed he also had an attitude problem.

2. What is the Feast?

- Jesus introduces the story as a wedding feast.
 - Then we have this verse....

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."*

- "Kingdom of God" refers to when God's rule on earth is complete

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!"*

¹ Courier Mail Supplement "Q Weekend" - 13/09/2025

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.”

- Notice that clothes are given to the bride
 - They represent the righteous acts of the saints
 - It is something given and seen.

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.’

- Notice the invitation had been given.
 - RSVP had been received
 - Preparations have been finalized.
- Are the excuses legitimate?

ILLUSTRATION: Key differences between excuses and reasons.

PTO

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.

- Excuses indicate misplaced priorities
- The servant is sent out to the marginalized 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.”*

- Notice the word “make / persuade / compel”
- Shows God’s eagerness to fill His kingdom with those who are willing to respond.

4. The Cost

- Everyone except the religious elite loves that story and thousands followed Him.
- Then He hits us with a figure of speech used frequently in his day
 - Hyperbole (high-per-be-lee)
 - Deliberate and obvious exaggeration.
 - Examples: “I slept like a rock”
 - Superannuation Ad “You’re sitting on a MONSTER!”
- In Luke 14:26-27, Jesus uses exaggerated language to get our attention.

- Do you love me more than your family?
 - That means you love your family more because of Jesus
- If the family tries to stop me from following Jesus, who comes first?
- Does what I want out of life come before Jesus?
- 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?*

- Salt is for seasoning and preserving
- The righteous acts of the saints depend on choices we make.