

I. INTRO

Matthew 13:10, 13 (NET) Then the disciples came to him and said, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” ...For this reason I speak to them in parables: Although they see they do not see, and although they hear they do not hear nor do they understand.

- A. Jesus attended events and went places where he was desired and events and places where he was despised.

- B. He did it all for two key reasons:
 - 1. To please the Father
 - 2. To offer us everlasting life

John 1:10 (NLT) He came into the very world he created, but the world didn’t recognize him.

II. JESUS THE RADICAL GUEST

- A. Eats dinner in the home of a leader of the Pharisees

Luke 14:1 (NLT) One Sabbath day Jesus went to eat dinner in the home of a leader of the Pharisees, and the people were watching him closely.

- B. Heals a man
- C. Deals with pride, arrogance, and a haughty spirit
- D. Instructs the host on who should get invited for future reward

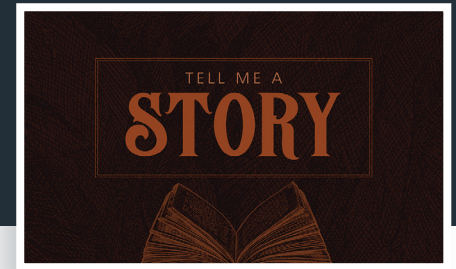
Luke 14:15 (NLT) Hearing this, a man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, “What a blessing it will be to attend a banquet in the Kingdom of God!”

Chuck Missler said, “The only barrier to truth is the presumption that you already have it.”

Romans 1:16 (NIV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

III. THE PARABLE OF THE GREAT BANQUET

- A. The Invitations



Luke 14:16 (NLT) Jesus replied with this story: “A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations.”

1. This was a large group of people receiving the invite
2. People he had prepared for
3. People he cared for and looked forward to hosting

Luke 14:17 (NLT) When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, ‘Come, the banquet is ready.’

4. Final preparations had been made and it was time to enjoy
5. This was the 2nd invitation to enjoy the banquet

Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV) But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

B. “Excuses” are major factors in this parable:

- Good Reason = factual, verifiable, unavoidable, logical, justifiable cause or purpose
- Poor Excuse = foreseeable, inconsistent, avoidable, illogical, unconvincing, inadequate

“If you really want to do something, you'll find a way. If you don't, you'll find an excuse.” ~ Jim Rohn

People sometimes make excuses to:

1. Avoid unpleasant situations with people of contrasting views
2. Avoid taking responsibility or facing the possibility of failure
3. Support their uncertainty concerning persons or purposes
4. Prevent loss of time, finances or attention required
5. Avoid dealing with pride, selfishness, and lack of humility

“Don't give in to excuses that can keep you from really living the best life God has for you.” ~ Joyce Meyer

C. The Excuses

Luke 14:18 (NLT) But they all began making excuses. One said, ‘I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.’

1. Inspecting His Field = Possession Overload

Luke 14:19 (NLT) Another said, ‘I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.’

2. Try Out His Oxen = Preoccupation With Vocation

Luke 14:20 (NLT) Another said, ‘I just got married, so I can't come.’

3. Marriage = Relationship Responsibilities



“Excuses are the crutches of the uncommitted.” ~ Pastor A. R. Bernard

D. More Invitations Are Given

- 1. Those with needs without sufficiency**
- 2. Those in need of healing**
- 3. Those who feel rejected**

Luke 14:21-23 (NLT) “The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, ‘Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ After the servant had done this, he reported, ‘There is still room for more.’ So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.

4. Still Room For More

Luke 14:24 (NLT) For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.”

“Excuses are the poison to progress.” ~ Unknown

Romans 1:20 (TLB) Since earliest times men have seen the earth and sky and all God made, and have known of his existence and great eternal power. So they will have no excuse when they stand before God at Judgment Day.