

July 11, 2021

SUMMER PARABLES

"THE URGENT INVITATION"

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LUKE 14:16-24 (NASB)

¹⁶ But He said to him, "A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; ¹⁷ and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, because everything is ready now.'¹⁸ And yet they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, 'I purchased a field and I need to go out to look at it; please consider me excused.'¹⁹ And another one said, 'I bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.'²⁰ And another one said, 'I took a woman as my wife, and for that reason I cannot come.'²¹ And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here those who are poor, those with disabilities, those who are blind, and those who are limping.'²² And later the slave said, 'Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.'²³ And the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and the hedges and press upon them to come in, so that my house will be filled. ²⁴ For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my dinner.'"

MAIN IDEA: The banquet invitation is proclaimed to all indiscriminately by His Church with urgent persuasions.

APPLICATION:

1. The banquet invitation is proclaimed to all indiscriminately (v. 21).

STAT: 19% of Americans of all ages are classified as a person with a disability.

2. The banquet invitation is proclaimed to all indiscriminately by His Church (v. 17).

STAT: More than 90% of church-going special needs parents cited the most helpful support to be a "welcoming attitude toward people with disabilities." Meanwhile, only about 80% of those parents said that welcoming attitude was present at their church (Melinda Jones Ault's doctoral dissertation).

STAT: Nearly 50% (46.6%) of special needs parents said they refrained from participating in a religious activity because their child was not included or welcomed (Melinda Jones Ault's doctoral dissertation).

3. The banquet invitation is proclaimed indiscriminately to all by His Church with urgent persuasions (vv. 18, 23).

4. The final banquet is our hope (vv. 16-17).

CONCLUSION: Take ACTION:

- Be a classroom volunteer.
- Be a Buddy for a child or youth.
- Commit to be a Care Partner.
- Become a Prayer Partner.