

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses
of glory*

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MUSIC: JUDY PLEAU

DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2023

The Dangers of Preoccupation Luke 14:12-24

Review

1. Jesus' mission perfectly aligns with the Father's commandment: To love people. (vv. 14:1-6)
2. He who honors himself will be shamed. (vv. 14:7-9)
3. He who humbles himself will be exalted. (vv. 14:10-11)

A life of sacrificial love results in heavenly reward. (vv. 14:12-14)

Luke 14:12 He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. **13** But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, **14** and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

The Great Banquet Parable: Preoccupation dulls our appetite for God. (vv. 14:15-24)

Luke 14:15 When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" **16** But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. **17** And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

1. Preoccupation #1 – "My life is too busy!"

Luke 14:18 But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.' **19** And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.'

2. Preoccupation #2 – "My family demands all my attention!"

Luke 14:20 And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

3. Preoccupation results in exclusion from enjoying the blessings of the Kingdom.

Luke 14:21 So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' **22** And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' **23** And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. **24** For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

"For all the ill that Satan can do, when God describes what keeps us from the banquet table of his love, it is a piece of land, a yoke of oxen, and a wife. The greatest adversary of love to God is not his enemies but his gifts. And the most deadly appetites are not for the poison of evil, but for the simple pleasures of earth. For when these replace an appetite for God himself, the idolatry is scarcely recognizable, and almost incurable." - A Hunger For God

Reflection/Discussion

1. Re-read Luke 14:12-14. Identify areas in your own life where you would like to see sacrificial love grow. Do you trust in the promise of heavenly blessing as you seek to love in this way?
2. Look again at Luke 14:15-24. What are some preoccupations/distractions/excuses in your own life that diminish your appetite for God? Confess those to him now and share with a trusted friend that can help you throw off those hindrances.

(Heb. 3:13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.)

SONGS

"GOD SO LOVED"

"WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME"

"ONCE AGAIN"

"GOODNESS OF GOD"

Altamont Music Pastor: Shawn Hoelsch (shawn@vbc.online)

Behold Podcast: vbc.online/behold

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 30,069.12

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,985.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$1,536,507.82

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$1,701,310.00

ALTAMONT CAMPUS EXPANSION FUND:
[Last Entry 11/14] \$ 104,764.74

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