

THE GREAT BANQUET

The Table is Set

Introduction

The invite is important, but the invite isn't the thing itself...

The Feast!

Luke 14:15-24

Luke's Gospel (a brief/rough outline)

Chapters 1-9: introducing Jesus and His mission

Chapters 9-19: journeying to Jerusalem

Chapters 19-24: Jesus' work of salvation in Jerusalem

And all this is Part 1 of a 2-part series: Luke & Acts

Luke is a physician, a doctor, who wasn't one of the 12 disciples, but was a travelling companion of Paul, who collected eye witness stories of BOTH Jesus and then the disciples and all that happened from Jesus' ministry right through to the establishing of the first generation of the Church.

So what was Luke wanting us to see about Jesus?

In Luke-Acts, we see God's love is for everyone!

The End is Nigh!

Isaiah 25:6–9

Hebrews 12:18–24

Revelation 19:6–10

But Luke is also making it clear on the way through that Jesus, as He's teaching on the road, is very much drawing people's attention to the process of how this end will come.

- + There's a narrow door
- + There's a lament over Jerusalem's lack of recognition of Jesus
- + "Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." – Luke 14:27 (ESV)

Jesus presents the choice...

- + You can come in, you can choose the way of Jesus
- + You can choose to respond, you can choose to attend
- + You can choose to welcome people, you can choose to take up your cross

Fresh Bread

The core and goal of this whole thing – we get Him! And He gets us!

The goal, at the end of history, is open and complete relationship – no brokenness, no barrier, not blockage, nothing in between – things as they were designed to be, now, in the new heaven and earth, in the cultivated and created city of God! Not just a garden, but now the garden city!

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! – Psalm 34:8 (ESV)

Today, if you need to come to Jesus, or come back to Jesus, now is the opportunity.

- + He's lifting off the weight of wrong decisions and inattention
- + I feel that He's lifting off the things that dull our passion
- + I feel Him calling you today, that if you've never put your faith in Him, to trust Him today, to set into this great story of history that will end in a celebration
- + Today is a day to respond to Him!

Discussion Questions:

1. Luke shows us Jesus who cares about the marginalised in society. Where do you stand on this? What does that look like for you?

2. Luke wants us to see how the way we treat others is significant to how we demonstrate we know Jesus. What does that look like in your life? What is God saying to you or doing in your life in this area?

3. There's a whole thread in scripture about the celebration at the end of history – have you ever thought about this? How does that change the way you think about God?
4. Does Jesus' work at Easter stand as a constant reminder of the joy that you can have each day? Do you celebrate this in your life daily? What would it look like to keep this at the forefront of your life?
5. What are some daily practices you can put in place to keep your passion for Jesus alive and well? What does that openness to the Holy Spirit look like in your life?