

Discussion Guide

The Savior Enigma: "The Great Banquet"

March 19, 2023

Big Idea

 Jesus invites us all to the Great Banquet regardless of our social status; because he loves us. All that is expected of us is to show up and accept his invitation. But will we show up?

Icebreaker

There are many aspects to hosting a great meal. This includes things like the pre-planning of what will be served, who will be invited, the shopping for the ingredients, the preparation of the food, the presentation of the food & establishment of the dining atmosphere, the eating itself, and then, of course, the clean-up. Are there certain aspects that you enjoy, or that excite you, more than others? Or does the whole thing intimidate you?

Discussion Questions

1. Read Luke 14:1-6. This section establishes the setting into which Jesus teaches the parable we looked at this past Sunday. Based on it, what do you feel the atmosphere of this mealtime was like? Why do you think that? What are some key phrases or things that take place that would have contributed to such an atmosphere? Or, in general, what are some significant things taking place?
2. Read Luke 14:15-24. In this parable who do you think "A certain man who was preparing a great banquet" (vs 16) represents? Who do those "originally invited" in the parable represent? As you think of the Old Testament why does it make sense that this was who was originally invited?
3. Those originally invited in this in this parable respond with what? Review each one individually (vs18, vs19, and then vs20) discussing how, in the context of the time of this teaching, they were blatant lies. For each one, what are some modern-day similar responses that could be made to decline the invitation to spend time with God through things like prayer, devotional time, Bible study, church attendance, small group attendance, or serving? (Internally answer: Guilty?)
4. People at their core are not much different today than they were in Jesus' time. So why do you think people would lie by making excuses to get out of accepting God's invitation of them to relationship, and even eternal security? Do you think people know what they are missing or are sacrificing by declining the invite to such things?
5. Re-read Luke 14:21-24. What is the masters (God's) initial response to receiving these excuses? In hearing them; and as the parable progresses, what does he instruct his servant to do? What is significant about *who* the master says to now invite? What is significant about the master's desire to have a full house? How can we act on aligning our actions to this desire of His?

Concluding Question

Read Zephaniah 3:14-17 (that's right, Zephaniah!). This passage shows much about the character of our God, resulting in much comfort. What can, *and what will*, you do this coming week to respond more deeply to God's invitation for you to have relationship with Him through Christ? _____

Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

Prayer

Easter is about 3 wks away. Pray that those who do not know Christ, will come to know him this season.