

Answers to the Big Questions of life. Pt 4 Eph. 5:15-17

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan 26th

Cost of Discipleship Pt. 1: Repentance

Existence: Why am I here? To Have a Consummate relationship with God. (Jer 31:3; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Gen. 1:26)

Significance: Do I matter? You weren't created for just survival, Or even temporary success; but for eternal Significance! (Jn 10:10; Rō. 8:37; Eph. 1-2:10; 1 Tim. 4:8)

Intention: What's the Point (Purpose) of my life! Rev. 4:11 *"thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure (thelēma: Purpose, desire) they are and were created."* (Mt 11:29; 1 Cor 3:9; 4:1; 2 Cor 5:20)

Expectation: What does God want from me? Pr 23:26 *"My son, give me thine heart, (leb: Center) God's not asking to be a part of our life, But to be Preeminent. Col. 1:17,18*

How do we know if He really is Preeminent (has your heart)? *"and let thine eyes observe (nāšar: value, guard) my ways."* (dereḵ: path or course of life) (Lk 6:46; Jn 14:15, 21; 1 Jn 5:3)

Last week we closed with Luke 9:57-62 *"Lord I will follow thee ...; but let me first..."*

Modern Christianity focuses on believing the right things. (The correct "education")

The word "Believer" is only found twice in the Bible! Education is important, but biblical Christianity focuses on Application of truth, leading to Transformation! (Jn 13:17; Rō. 8:29; 12:2; 2 Cor 3:18)

The Bible uses the word Disciple(s) 273x! (Mathētēs: from manthano: to learn by use and practice!)

It's Clear that God's expectation is not just that we "believe" in him, but that our belief (faith) will motivate us to follow Him! (Mt 4:17-19) Transitioning from a "Me first" believer to a "God First" disciple involves a cost. What will God's "Ideal life" cost me? Jesus tells us in Luke 14.

A Realization of our Position (Who/What we are) leading to Repentance!

1. At the Pharisee's Dinner Party Vs 1-4

A. Their Subtle Trap: 1-2 *"he went into the house ... to eat on the sabbath day, that they watched him. And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy."*

1) Who invited this sick man...*and why?*

B. Jesus' Pointed question (Vs 3,4) *"is it lawful to heal on the sabbath?...they held their peace."*

1) Who's law outlawed this? (See Mt 15:6; Mk 7:13)

C. His gracious intervention. Vs 4 *"And he took him, and healed him, and let him go."* (apolyō: set at liberty)

1) Who had "bound" him? (Compare Lk 14:5 with Lk 13:15,16)

2. Parables of Pride and Prejudice. Vs 7-14

A. Positioning for Power 7-14 7 *"when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; ..."*

B. Practical advice: 8-10 *"But ..., go and sit down in the lowest room;..."*

C. Principled Counsel vs 11 *"he that humbleth himself shall be exalted..."*

D. Practical Application 12-15 *"But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, maimed, lame, the blind..."*

3) Parable of the Great Supper Invitation 16-24

This is a parallel of the Great wedding feast of Mt 22:1-14 and ultimately Rev. 19:1-10

A. Notice the types of characters involved:

- 1) The Master (Host) (Representing God)
- 2) The Servant (Messengers) (Representing God's servants/people)
- 3) The original Invited guests. (Representing the "religious" Jews.)
- 4) The eventual invited guests. (Representing lost Jews and Gentiles)

Which of these categories best describe you?

B. Notice the Invitation: Lk 14:17,18 The Master *"sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready."* (Hetoimōs: adjusted, prepared)

1) Who paid the price for all this "preparation"?

C. Notice the types of excuses given 18-20 *"they all with one consent began to make excuse."*

- 1) Investment. 18 *"I've bought a piece of ground, I must go see it..."*
- 2) Business: 19 *"I've bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them..."*
- 3) Family: 20 *"I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come."*

Each was basically saying "You're not a priority!" *"Lord, me first!"* Lk 9:57-62

D. Notice the Master's response (21-24). *"Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, the maimed, the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel (persuade) them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper."*

Conclusion:

Just as Nathan shared a "parable" to get David to reconsider and repent of his sin (2 Sam 21:1-14); Jesus used a familiar dinner setting to challenge the self righteous "Me first" pharisees recognize where they were in their relationship to God (Not just his Law).

The majority failed to recognize themselves (and Jesus) in these parables. Since they were trusting their "Religious Education", *they continued to reject God's "Gracious invitation!"*

This wasn't Jesus' first attempt to reach them. (Jn 5:39,40; 9:39-41)

Application:

God included this in His word so we'll ask the same questions about Jesus and ourselves! (1 Cor 10:11)

1) Have you really recognized who Jesus is and what he's done to "make all things ready" for your Salvation *and Significance?*

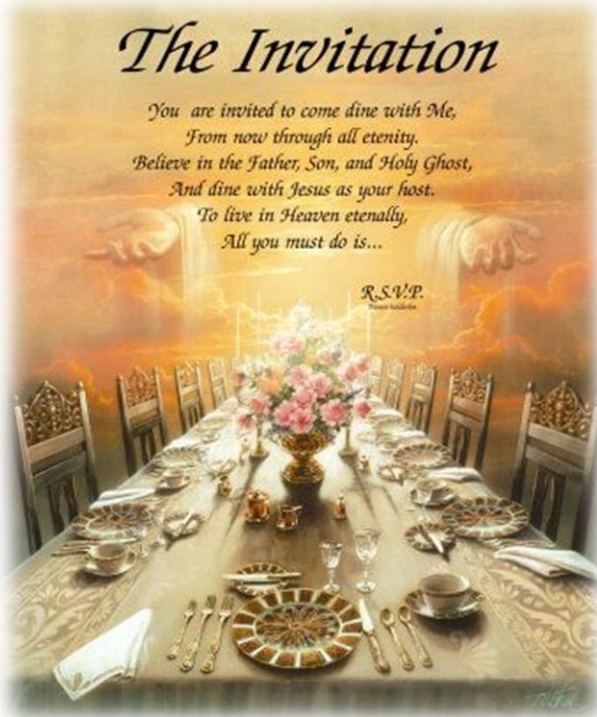
2) Which of these characters in this chapter most accurately represent you?

- The Proudful pharisees jockeying for praise & position? 7
- The Obedient Inviters (The "Lord's" servants) 17
- The Evasive Excusers (rejecting God's invitation.) 18-20
- The "broken but blessed" responders? (21-23)

3) Are you a "but let me first..." believer? Lk 9:57-62 *"Lord I will follow thee ...; but let me first..."*

In Luke 14 when Jesus spoke about God's invitation: *"and they all ... began to make excuse"* vs 18

Wealth *"I've bought a piece of ground..."* Work: *"I have bought five yoke of oxen"* Wife: *"I have married..."*



What's your excuse for being a "Casual Christian"?

Mt 4:17 *"Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand."*

Which King (Whose Kingdom) are you serving?

God's Invitation still Open Today:

Rev. 22:17

"The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

But someday it will close!

Gen. 6:3 *"My Spirit shall not always strive with man"*

Pr. 1:20-33; 2 Cor 6:2; Heb. 3:7-13

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