

Luke 14:1-24

14:1 It happened that when He went into the house of one of the leaders of the Pharisees on the Sabbath to eat bread, they were watching Him closely.

If you name the Name of Jesus, someone is watching you closely.

1. It may be your spouse, child, sibling, or even a parent
2. It may be a co-worker, classmate, or friend
3. It could be someone you couldn't even imagine!
4. Live like someone is watching you, because they are!

2 And there in front of Him was a man suffering from dropsy.

1. We need to have the ends of the earth on our hearts and minds...the least reached people.
 - a. This is the great commission
 - b. Matthew 28:19-20 *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you*
2. But we need to also ask: **Who is in front of me?**
3. Who is it that God has placed in front of you, in your life, in your circle that you can engage with the gospel. (The least we can do is invite people to Easter service)

3 And Jesus answered and spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" 4 But they kept silent. And He took hold of him and healed him, and sent him away.

1. Notice, that he did not just heal him. He sent him away
2. He often seemed to send people away
 - a. He sent the leper away after healing him
 - b. He sent the demoniac away after releasing him
 - c. He sent Paul away after blinding him
3. **In the Great Commission he sends us all away!**
 - a. You have the call from above, below, around, and within!
 - b. You have the call from Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts!
 - c. If He has brought us to Himself, He has sent us away as well. Where are you going?

5 And He said to them, "Which one of you will have a son or an ox fall into a well, and will not immediately pull him out on a Sabbath day?" 6 And they could make no reply to this.

1. He had already had this conversation more than once!
2. Luke 13:14-16 *But the synagogue official, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, began saying to the crowd in response, "There are six days in which work should be done; so come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day." 15 But the Lord answered him and said,*

“You hypocrites, does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead him away to water him? 16 And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?”

3. Matthew 12:11-12 *And He said to them, “What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”*

7 And He began speaking a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor at the table, saying to them, 8 “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, 9 and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this man,’ and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place. 10 But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. 11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

1. We live in a time of self-exalting!

- a. Haven’t you heard of selfies?
- b. Haven’t you heard of social media?
- c. Let us not forget that this is the sin that caused Satan to fall!!

2. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

3. Don’t seek to be praised or exalted, but humble yourself and serve.

12 And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. 13 But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Look at what happens in verse 15.

15 When one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” 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 say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’ 18 But they all alike began to make excuses.

A man is giving a great banquet.

1. This is a huge event put on by an obviously very wealthy man.
2. Every one of these kind of events had two invitations.
 - a. The one that let you know you would be invited and then the second when everything was ready.
 - b. The first was to make reservations and the second to announce that the banquet was beginning.
3. He sends out the first invitation to many.

They all verbally and clearly responded to the invitation.

1. They all made their reservations.
2. Now it was time to affirm the invitation with their actions. But they all began to make excuses.

The first one said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.' 19 Another one said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.' 20 Another one said, 'I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.'

1. Okay, who is going to go buy a field without first inspecting it?
2. Who is going to buy one yoke of oxen without testing them, much less 5 yoke of oxen?
3. The guy who was just married appealed to scripture, but he twisted it and took it out of context to fit his situation.
4. A tremendous amount of effort, work, and expense has been invested in this banquet.
5. **A tremendous act of generosity and kindness is returned with indifference.**
 - a. The greatest act of generosity and kindness in history is the Gospel.
 - b. 2 Corinthians 5:21 *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*
 - c. Don't be indifferent!
 1. We can verbally make our profession and say yes Lord just like the men in this parable... and then go right on in spiritual and daily indifference.
 2. Matthew 7:21 *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.*
6. Is this not dishonoring?
 - a. This is considered outrageous and unacceptable conduct.
 - b. some ancient near eastern traditions equate this with a declaration of war

No excuse is valid. (so what excuses have you been making for refusing to surrender?)

We have a problem now. We have a massive banquet prepared and nobody to come.

1. The celebration will go on.
2. Every seat will be filled, but it's going to be fulfilled by the most unlikely people.

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 the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' 22 And 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 highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled.

Who do they invite now?

1. The poor, the crippled, the blind, the lame.
2. We're talking about the beggars and the outcasts who live in the slums
3. We're talking about the outcasts, the untouchables: Gentiles!

a. Luke 13:18-19 So He was saying, "What is the kingdom of God like, and to what shall I compare it? 19 It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and threw into his own garden; and it grew and became a tree, and *THE BIRDS OF THE AIR NESTED IN ITS BRANCHES.*"

b. Luke 13:29. And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God.

Master, there is still room!

1. Go over to the highways and along the hedges. Fill up my house.
2. The slave was not to take 'no' for an answer. He was to compel them to come in.
 - a. The idea of the word compel here is a very strong word.
 - b. These would take a lot of convincing that they were really wanted at a banquet in the city.
 - c. You're going to have to compel these people because they know their unworthiness... these are not the ones who exalt themselves.
 - d. No, they are the humble, the broken, the sick, the sinners...like us.

3. He is inviting you.

a. Revelation 22:17. The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

- b. What is your excuse this morning?

How dangerous it is to refuse the invitation of God?

24 For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.'"