



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

The Story of a Party!

Luke 14:1-24

Message #44 of 50 – S826

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Sunday Morning Service

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The Story of a Party!

Luke 14:1-24

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 14**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- Throughout this study, I have been saying, “God is writing a story in your life!” It is the story of Jesus living out of you
- It is a good story! That doesn’t mean everything in your story feels good, but if you are living the story God is writing about Jesus in your life, your story is good, because God is good!
- Sometimes it feels like life is a party and we are the guests of honor – other times it feels like there is a party going on somewhere, but we weren’t invited to it
- In today’s text Jesus is invited to a gathering that isn’t much of a party
- From it I hope to point out a few things to help us live the good story God is trying to write in our lives
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Story of a Party!**
- In the previous chapter Jesus healed a woman who had a crippling disability
- Only problem was that it was on the Sabbath
- Luke then relates another Sabbath incident to us
- **Luke 14:1**
- This was common hospitality of the Pharisee – though ‘hostile hospitality’
- Jesus doesn’t seem to turn down an invitation to eat, even when He knows the heart of the one inviting Him
- ‘watched Him closely’ – want to catch Him doing something wrong
- **Luke 14:2**

- ‘dropsy’ = edema – abnormal swelling – can be very painful, can indicate a serious problem
- It is highly unlikely that this man was invited to the party – maybe there so that Jesus can heal Him – more likely, he is bait for a trap to see if Jesus will heal him on the Sabbath
- The Pharisees described healing as working – work forbidden on the Sabbath - Jesus sees through their hypocrisy and calls them out
- **Luke 14:3-4**
- If they say yes, they would look like hypocrites regarding the way they treat the Sabbath
- If they say no, they will look inhumane as this poor suffering man stands before them
- **Luke 14:5-6**
- This is a rhetorical question, every one of them would have rescued one of their animals if it was in trouble, even on the Sabbath
- They couldn’t answer because if they did, they would be admitting that they treat animals better than other humans – created in the image of God
- One of the keys to living the good story God is writing is **Always do what is good!**
- Over and over again the Bible tells us to do good **Galatians 6:10**
Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- **Now is always a good time to do a good thing!**
- As this poor man stood suffering in Christ’s presence, the good thing he needed was healing, which Jesus was able to give him
- Jesus heals the man and sends him home
- Then He looks around and chooses to reveal something about the hearts of these religious men
- **Luke 14:7-11**
- The best seats were close to the guest of honor or the host
- If you weren’t the honored guest, the closer you were to him, the more esteemed you were by everyone else
- This is self-exalting pride – God hates pride
- The next key to living the good story – **Be humble!**

- We need to be careful – it is not about acting humble – false humility = hypocrisy
- Humility is the opposite of pride – which is the exaltation of self – self-worship
- Humility is not thinking of yourself as small and insignificant, it is not thinking of yourself at all.
- It is about putting God’s will and other’s needs before yourself **James 4:10**

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- We live in a culture that is all about self-promotion
- Social media tends to nurture the root of pride in the human heart
- Social media is not evil, but it can stir up pride – just be careful and grow in humility
- Then Jesus turns to His host and addresses the same issue
- **Luke 14:12-14**
- This is the first direct reference to resurrection in Luke’s gospel
- Four quick things in verse 14
- First, ‘you will be blessed’ – there is some kind of temporal blessing attached to doing good to those who cannot repay you
- Doesn’t say what that blessing is, but it is a spiritual truth – believe it!
- Second, ‘the resurrection’ – there is life after death
- Third, ‘the just’ – ‘just’ = right with God - suggests more than one category of resurrection **Daniel 12:2-3**

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

- The Bible teaches that everyone will be resurrected – some to eternal life with God – others to eternal shame and contempt
- Fourth thing in verse 14, ‘you shall be repaid’
- There is a saying in the world, ‘No good deed goes unpunished!’
- That is not how it is in God’s kingdom
- Each and every believer will someday stand before Jesus and be rewarded for the good they have done in this life
- Another key to living the good story is – **Expect blessings and look forward to rewards!**

- We probably all know someone with an Eeyore personality – everything is bad, and even the things that look good are probably bad, and there is no hope of good in the future
- That’s no way to live
- If we are living the story God is writing of Jesus in our lives, we can expect blessing
- Oh, that doesn’t mean bad things won’t come – they will, but we are to live expecting God’s blessings
- Someone at this lunch party blurts out what they are thinking
- **Luke 14:15**
- The Jews imagined heaven as a great feast **Isaiah 25:6**
And in this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees.
- This man says what every other one is probably thinking, ‘I will be blessed to attend that feast!’
- Jesus is about to rock that false confidence
- **Luke 14:16-17**
- These ‘great suppers’ would usually involve two invitations
- One was an announcement of the event – like a ‘Save the Date’ card people send to people for their weddings
- People would respond to the first invitation letting the host know how many people to prepare for
- The second invitation was on the day of the event telling them the food was ready – second invitation was sent to everyone who responded to the first
- **Luke 14:18-20**
- Three types of excuses – three excuses why they couldn’t respond to the invitation
- First one – **Possessions** – ‘piece of ground’
- His stuff was more important than responding to the invitation
- Second one – **Profession** – ‘five yoke of oxen’
- This was how he would make a living – put his profession before response to invitation
- Third one – **Affections** – ‘married a wife’ – allowed a relationship to come between himself and the invitation

- All three of these excuses are weak acts of self-worship
- The next key to living the good story – **Don't make excuses to God**
- Every day God is inviting you into a deeper relationship with Him
- Sometimes you are going to respond and sometimes you are not going to – don't make excuses for not wanting to be closer to God – be real
- Listen - **God's love for you is big enough to handle the weakness of your love for Him.**
- Don't make excuses – just try to love Him more
- Jesus tells the hard-hearted, self-worshipping Pharisees how God feels about their excuses
- **Luke 14:21-24**
- It makes God angry when someone rejects the invitation into His kingdom
- The cost of that invitation was the death of His Son on the cross for the sins of the world
- The final key in this text – **Respond to the Invitations**
- I see two responses in this text – first – accept the invitation to the 'great supper' – 'marriage supper of the Lamb' – Revelation 19
- Second – extend the invitation to others
- God's desire = 'that my house may be filled'
- Once I have accepted His invitation, I should play a role of filling God's house (heaven)
- God is writing a story of Jesus in your life – it is a good story
- But to experience the goodness of that story we need to do our part
- Always do what is good!
- Be humble!
- Expect blessings and look forward to rewards!
- Don't make excuses to God!
- Respond to the invitations!
- God is writing the good story of Jesus in your life – go out and live it!
- **Pray!**