

COME AND DINE... GO AND DIE

Luke 14:16-35

I. AN ELABORATE PARTY. vss. 16-17

- A. A Lavish Affair – (Great – indicates the wealth of the host.)
- B. A Large Affair – The guest list was large and it included the great men of the community.
- C. A Longed For Affair – Many would have loved to have been invited.
- D. There Is A Lesson Here – In this parable, the "man" is God. He is shown as one of great wealth, who is preparing a lavish affair and wants to invite many to attend.

II. AN ENRAGING PROBLEM. vss. 18-21b

- A. A call was issued when all things had been prepared for the supper.
- B. All those who had been invited to this lavish affair refused to come. These all are very petty excuses.
 - 1. v. 18 – The Excuse Of Material Possessions – This man had purchased a piece of property, without seeing it first.
 - 2. v. 19 – The Excuse Of Professional Advancement – This man had bought 10 oxen, without trying them out, and he can't come to the party because he has to go and plow a field.
 - 3. v. 20 The Excuse Of Personal Relationships – This man was a newlywed.
- C. Nothing is worth losing your eternal soul over. See Matt. 16:26

III. AN ENCOURAGING PLAN. vss. 21b-24

- A. When those who were invited turned a deaf ear to the call to dinner, the gracious host, determined to fill his house.
- B. In this, we can see a picture of the Heavenly Father and the love He has for the fallen members of the human race. See vs. 13 also.
 - 1. The Poor – He called those who could never pay him back.
 - 2. The Crippled – These are the maimed Those people who are unable to get around on their own
 - 3. The Blind – These are the people who are trapped in their own little world of darkness.
 - 4. The Lame – Here are the deformed, the twisted, those around whom society feels uncomfortable. These are the people who are the defects of society.
 - 5. Highway and Hedge dwellers – Now he sends the servant into the streets and the hedgerows.
- C. This wealthy man was determined that his house would be filled.
- D. Notice in verse 21 the servant was to go "quickly", this speaks of the urgency of the situation.

IV. AN ENORMOUS PRICE. vss. 25-35

- A. Lest anyone think that being a follower of Christ is cheap, Jesus makes it very plain that it is anything but cheap. The price, in fact, is more than many are ever willing to pay!
- B. Jesus issues three (3) consecutive and progressive calls:
- a. Come unto me. **Matthew 11:28** "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. (NASB)
 - b. Come after me. **Luke 14:27** "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. (NASB)
 - c. Come with me. **1 Thessalonians 4:17** Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. (NASB)
- C. Jesus tells us that there are several basic things we must do to be a disciple of Christ.
1. v. 26 – The true Disciple will love Christ supremely (Col. 1:18 ...He is also head of the body, the church; ...so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything (NASB)
 - a. He must love his own father and mother less than Christ [v. 26a].
 - b. He must love his own wife and children less than Christ [v. 26b].
 - c. He must love his own brothers and sisters less than Christ [v. 26c].
 - d. He must love, and this could be most important, his own life less than Christ [v. 26d].
 2. v. 27a – The true Disciple will take up his OWN cross and examine it in the light of the cross of Christ. Our cross can only be interpreted by His cross (Luke 9:23).
 - a. "We never touch the realm of the cross until we are suffering vicariously." G.C.M. See 2 Cor. 1:6-7; 2 Cor. 11:28-29. "pressure upon me of concern for all the churches."
 - b. Our suffering is the suffering of the sympathy with others. (Phil. 2:1-8 -- "He emptied Himself... to the point of death, even the death on the cross"). There's the cross.
 - c. Our strength must be poured out in order to help others. That is the cross.
 3. vss. 28-32 The true Disciple will NOT count the cost nor will he appraise the battle.
 - a. There is no comparing Jesus to anything or anyone.
 - b. There is no bargaining between earthly loves and the call of Jesus.
 - c. The one hesitating in the call to the fellowship of the cross, cannot come (Phil. 3:10).
 - d. He is the Builder/ Warrior King. He has always had a trowel/ sword concept.
 - e. He swept into this arena to build/ battle and is depending on quality workers/ soldiers.
 - f. He announced this some six months prior (Matt. 16:18 "...you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.
 - g. God's revelation supports this. The Bible begins in a garden and ends in a city.
 4. v. 33 - "So therefore" appears in the NASB. "Likewise" appears in the KJV.
 - a. There is all the difference in the world as to the meaning of therefore and likewise.
 - b. Strong's (3767) lists it 526 times. AV - therefore 263, then 197, so 18, and 11, now 9, wherefore 8, but 5, not tr 9, misc 6. Its meaning can be -- then, therefore, accordingly, consequently, these things being so.
 5. vss. 34 The true Disciple will fulfill his one purpose in life, salt the earth with the gospel.
 6. vss. 35 A saltless, tasteless, tangless professor of Christianity can ruin a manure pile.
- D. Choosing Jesus is based on the severest terms imaginable. Do it, now! Whom will you serve?