

The Parable of the Great Banquet

Luke 14:1-24

by Don Falkos

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One Sabbath Jesus went to the home of a prominent Pharisee for a meal. There was a man there who suffered from a debilitating disease. Jesus asked the Pharisees and the experts in the Law, "Does the Law allow for healing on the Sabbath?" They didn't answer. So Jesus healed the man and then said to them, "If one of you was to see a child or even an animal fall into a well, wouldn't you immediately pull it out, even if it were the Sabbath?"

When Jesus noticed the other guests picking for themselves the best places at the best tables, he said, "If you attempt to honor yourself, you will be humbled. But if you humble yourself, you will be honored."

And to his host Jesus said, "The next time you throw a party, don't just invite friends, relatives, and wealthy neighbors. They'll turn around and invite you to one of their parties. Instead, invite those who cannot pay you back. You will be rewarded at the resurrection of God's people.

There was once a man who prepared a great banquet and invited a lot of people. When the banquet was ready, the man sent his servant to say to these people, "Everything is ready. Please come now."

One after the other made their excuses.

When the servant told his master what had happened, the master said, "Go out right now into the streets and alleyways. Bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind."

When that was done, the servant said to his master, "There is still plenty of room at the banquet."

"Then go out to the countryside and bring in anyone who is willing to come. Not one of the people I originally invited will get even a taste of what I've prepared."