

Series: Parables
Title: Come, All is Ready!
Text: Luke 14: 15-27
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Let's say you have invited many guests to your table. You have worked hard and prepared all things—all is ready. Those that are called are to bring nothing to the table. They are to come freely and feast with you and enjoy all that you have prepared. Yet, those you invited one-by-one begin to make lame excuses and refuse to come. How will that make you feel?

When God calls sinners to his gospel supper in this day of grace, the one calling is the Master of the house. He has prepared all things. When sinners have been given a heart for our Host they willingly come. The food Christ serves in this gospel supper is Christ our Bread, our Water and our Wine. When a sinner has been made to hunger and thirst after righteousness he willingly comes to this gospel supper and partakes of Christ our Bread. Yet, those who are bidden and will not come are inexcusable no matter the excuse they give.

In our text, the Lord Jesus is seated at dinner in the house of one of the chief Pharisees. Christ went to the Pharisee's supper but the Pharisee would not come to Christ's. The Master had given several parables which rebuked the Pharisees. **Luke 14:15: And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.**

Divisions: I. A CERTAIN MAN AND HIS SUPPER--16: Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: 17: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready; **II. EXCUSES FOR REBELLION AGAINST GOD—**18: And they all with one *consent* began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. 19: And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. 20: And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come; **III. THE MASTER'S RESPONSE, COMMAND AND PROMISE--**21: So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. 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, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. 22: And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. 23: And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled. 24: For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

Proposition: There is a difference in the outward call and the inward call of grace. Many are called but few are chosen. Those who believe Christ must forsake all, let nothing come between us and him, even when it means suffering for him.

I. A CERTAIN MAN AND HIS SUPPER

Luke 14: 16: A certain man made a great supper. This Certain Man is our Great God—God the Father and his Son Christ Jesus have made this great supper—the supper is his Gospel.

Isaiah 25: 6: And in this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.

In our text, the figure is the same but the Gospel is called a **supper**.

- Supper is at the end of the day—this gospel supper was prepared by Christ in the end of the world—Heb 9: 26: ...now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.
- It is a great supper—because God our Savior, Christ Jesus—King of kings and Lord of lords who made this supper—is the great.
- It is a great supper because of the great cost to prepare—the blood of God’s own Son.
- It is great because the message is of the fullness of grace and completeness found in Christ
- It is great because it is for great sinners with great need—great hunger and thirst for righteousness found only in Christ.
- For a great multitude whom God chose before time.

Tonight, we are partaking of the great supper of the gospel prepared by God our Savior in his Son Christ Jesus our Lord.

A call goes out, **Luke 14: 16:..and bade many. 17: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come.** In our text, Christ the Servant of God is here at the end of the world calling those who were bidden—the Jews—to Come. But this word is not to the Jews only—it applies to us today.

God in Christ has made his great supper, Christ the Master has sent the Holy Spirit, Christ sends his servant who preaches his gospel together with his bride, saying “come, all things are now ready.” The word servant may be singular because these servants are ONE SERVANT in and with Christ. Notice it again in:

Revelation 22: 16: I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star. 17 And 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.

Luke 14: 17:...for all things are now ready. This is the argument God gives for sinners to come to Christ—all things are now ready. This is the good news of the gospel we preach—all things are now ready.

Illustration from Charles Spurgeon--In creation: the living things God made did not have to provide land, or atmosphere, or sun, or shelter—God made it all ready beforehand: the fish had water, the cattle had pastures, the birds had trees, Adam had all things made for him—everything was made ready by God beforehand. When God bids you to come, you can be sure all is done before hand—all things are now ready.

Long before God bid any come—in his eternal council—God the Father made all things ready for those for whom the table of his mercy is now spread. He made ready all things predestinating all the provisions in his Son. Christ Jesus has finished the work given him of the Father--“All things are now ready.”

- The Robe of Christ our Righteousness is ready to be put on.
- Son ship is ready to be bestowed
- The Bread of Life is ready to be eaten.
- The Wine of his Blood is ready to be drunk.
- The feast of free justification is ready
- The platter of full forgiveness of sins is ready

This is not a restaurant or a pot-luck! You must not bring any money! All is free and all things are now ready! You must not bring any of your preparations! Not even a packet of salt! “And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” Until we are willing to take freely then we are not willing.

Illustration: If someone invited you to be their guest and upon arriving no one is home or nothing is prepared. You would think either there is a mistake or the person who bid you was insincere.

Not so with the Lord. Come, sinner, right now because there remains absolutely nothing for you to do, all things are ready. Come and you will find it so. The good news that all things are now ready ought to be irresistible. But the natural heart is a hard, cold, calloused, lifeless thing.

II. EXCUSES FOR REBELLION AGAINST GOD

Luke 14: 18: And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. 19: And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. 20: And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come;

Salvation by grace is already paid for by Christ, Christ has been proven and is the sure foundation, he has a bride whom he shall save who will trust him by his grace. Yet, one of men's favorite excuses is—"I can't believe on Christ who I have never seen." Yet, men will pay money to purchase something sight unseen. The first man bought property-sight unseen. Men will say, "I need a sign—proof—if it was proven to me I would believe." Yet men will purchase things before proving them—the second man bought unproven oxen. You believe another sinful lying man but you won't believe God.

The problem is the unregenerate man covets this cursed ground called flesh. Some thinks he has good fruits growing from this cursed ground, he doesn't need Christ. Another thinks he only needs a little help—like oxen—but he is strong enough to plough without Christ. One is married to the flesh and will not come to Christ because the flesh his real love.

That one did not even say, "I pray thee have me excused." Surely a person—one you love, one you must provide for—a father/mother; a husband/wife, children/sibling—surely God will excuse me if I was taking care of them. Here is the point of the whole parable.

Luke 14: 25: And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, 26: If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27: And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

The ground, oxen, wife express the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16.) Under one or other of these all of the unrenewed of mankind may be found.

Application: Brethren, there is an important lesson here for you who believe on Christ and are faithful to hear the gospel as well.

The piece of ground, the oxen, or the wife were not in themselves evil. In fact, they are all noble things and necessary things to life. The evil is when the heart becomes set on those things so that they come between Christ and his gospel.

The test is this: does Christ have the rule in our hearts or **the lust of the flesh, and the eyes, and the pride of life?** We may consider a piece of land or some other possessions to be a blessing from God—it is a poor way to return thanks by leaving off the worship of Christ to go take care of those things. We may consider that love of our life a gift from God--It is a poor way to thank him to let them come between you and his Son and his gospel. One with a wife or other loved ones is doubly responsible to come to the feast. He is responsible for himself and those we have the care over. If a wife will not come, it must not keep the

husband away. No carnal unions, sentiments, and affections are excusable for keeping us from Christ and his gospel.

Believer, even during every trial and temptation he still bids you come—for all things are now ready. We use sad worthless excuses. One will say, “I feel too sinful to go to the Lord about this.” Rather than praying to God for mercy, we say, “I pray thee have me excused!” What better time to ask God to give us grace! Another will say, “I’ve been so lifted up in pride or I’m so cast down in sorrow or when we feel the world creeping in between us and Christ, we say, I can’t come hear the gospel today. I pray thee have me excused.” What better time to come hear the gospel of grace! Some poor saint will say, “My understanding is so feeble or I have so many things competing for my time I can’t read his word for myself through the week.” No better reason to read it! The word is there to teach us. The more you read the word of God the more you will you have time to read it.

God does not bid us his table because we are full; he bids come because in ourselves we are empty and hungry. God does not say make yourself ready and come—he says “He has made all things ready—now you come!”

Hebrews 4: 15: For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. 16: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Back to the context. The Gospel must be openly published and proclaimed like the public bell calls you to assemble at school. When we invite someone to supper there may be unexpected guests or we may be surprised and disappointed by those who do not show up—but not God. Every place setting at his table of grace has a name written on it before the foundation of the world. Christ has written those names in the indelible ink of his blood. There will be no empty spaces at his table.

Just as true, sinner, when God calls you to come he is not mocking. If you come you will find a place already prepared for you, and you will find it was done before the world was made. But if you do not come it will solely be your own fault. You were bidden but you made excuses.

Just as true, it will not have altered what God determined from the beginning at all.

Romans 3: 3: For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? 4: God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

When sinners will reject something so wonderful as God’s free grace in Christ for something so polluted and cursed as this shadow of death called the flesh—God shows us how utterly necessary for him to call us inwardly, effectually.

III. THE MASTER’S RESPONSE, COMMAND AND PROMISE--

The Master’s Response

Luke 14: 21: So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry...It angers God when sinner’s trample under feet the blood of his Son.

Proverbs 29: 1: He, that being often reprov’d hardeneth *his* neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Proverbs 1: 23: Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. 24: Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; 25: But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: 26: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; 27: When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. 28: Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: 29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: 30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. 31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. 32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. 33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

The Master's Command.

Luke 14: 21...said to his servant, Go out quickly...

The Spirit of God is calling the redeemed of God internally and doing it right on time. We must not tarry but be about our Father's business while it is still the day of grace. To whom does he send his command?

Luke 14: 21: said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

God will have no self-righteous, self-boasting holy men at his table. He despises such. God is calling sinners—from the gutters of the street, the allies of the city—sinners! Any here like this?

Poor—no way to pay the debt you owe to God's justice—the Master says “come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price (Is 55: 1). Maimed and halt and blind—in your flesh dwells no good thing—in this condition by the fall in Adam, conceived in sin, come forth a sinner. The Master says, “Come, all things are ready”—Christ will be your Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and your Redemption from all who oppress you to produce what you cannot because of your sinful wretched body of death. There is still room.

Luke 14: 22: And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

Our God has a big table! Many have been chosen and called—but there are still some seats vacant. There is room—come, all things are now ready! By our Master's orders, we compel you to come.

Luke 14: 23: And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled.

Only the Spirit of God can compel men effectually, but let us be as Paul.

2 Cor 5: 11: Knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men...20: Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God...2 Cor 6:1: We then, as workers together *with him*, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

That my house be filled. Only when the last vacant seat is filled will the Father's will be done and Christ's body complete.

John 6: 37: All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. 38: For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39: And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40: And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

The Master's Promise

Matthew 11:28: Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30: For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

But if you do not come to Christ you will perish. And you will not be able to blame God. You were bidden, you simply were unwilling to come. The very will you boasted of so much would not allow you to submit to the gospel command. And this is the Master's promise concerning those who refuse him:

Luke 14: 24: For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

Illustration: Going to New York for dinner

For you who have not obeyed Christ. The call is going out--submit to him, believe him. You will find it as it was told you: all is prepared. You will feast like a king.

For you who have come now go home with this. Nothing in this perishing world is worth coming between us and our Redeemer

1. Continue to come to Christ—to whom coming
2. Continue to come to hear his gospel—let nothing interrupt it: has he given you gifts, show your gratitude by worshipping him not them; lead your loved ones to him not away from him.
3. At the appointed hour, one day he will say "Leave your house of clay, all your possessions, even your dearest loved ones—"Come, for all things are now ready!" He says,

Luke 12: 37: Blessed *are* those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Then we will say, "Why did I ever think of letting anything come between me and one so wonderful!"

Amen!