

Entering and Reigning In The Kingdom-Our Only Focus Part 17

THE Banquet Parable

Luke 15: ¹²The younger one said **to HIS father**, 'Father, **give me MY share** of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

Luke 9: ²³Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny **HIMSELF** and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever wants to **save** his life will **lose** it, but whoever **loses** his life for me will **save** it. ²⁵What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?

Read this section later: **Luke 14:26-35**

³³In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

Matthew 13: ⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure (*like our coming inheritance*) hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and **sold all he had** and bought that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

⁴⁶When he found one of great value (*like our coming inheritance*), he went away and **sold everything he had** and bought it.

Hebrews 3: ¹³But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's **deceitfulness**.

Banquets have been used as a formal occasion for thousands of years. Kings during medieval times frequently threw banquets for special events, such as birthdays or holidays. Some banquets are used to show a job well done, while others are used for signing a treaty or agreement of some sort.

Matthew 22: ²The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.

Matthew 25: ¹⁰"But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

¹³"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Luke 13: ²⁹People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

Luke 14: ¹One Sabbath, when Jesus **went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee**, he was being carefully watched.

⁷When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸"When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when **YOUR HOST COMES**, he will say to you, (*when does he talk to us individually-at the judgment seat?*) '**Friend**, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored (*future tense*) in the presence of all your fellow guests. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹²Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed.

Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

¹⁵When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast **in the kingdom of God.**" ¹⁶Jesus replied: "A certain man was **preparing** a **great** banquet and invited many guests.

John 14: ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. **I am going there to PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU.** ³And if I go **and PREPARE A PLACE** for you, **I will come back** and take you to be with me **that you also may be where I am.**

Luke 14: ¹⁷At **the time of the banquet** he sent **his servant to tell** those **who had been invited**, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' ¹⁸"But they all (*it's unanimous*) alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' ¹⁹"Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' ²⁰"Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

Romans 1: ²⁰man is without excuse.....

²¹"The servant came back and reported this to his master. **Then the owner of the house** became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' ²²" 'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' ²³"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes **and make (anagkazo-compel) them come in,** so that my house will be full.

²⁴I tell you, not one of those men **who were invited** (*past tense now*) will get a taste of my banquet.'

Matthew 13: ¹Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²"**The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.**

³He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. ⁴"Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. **Come to the wedding banquet.**' ⁵"**But they paid no attention** and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' ¹⁰So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both **good** and **bad**, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²'**Friend,**' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless.

Revelation 19: ⁶Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. ⁷Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. ⁸Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

Matthew 13: ¹³"Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴"For many are invited, **but few are chosen.**"