

Remnant Life Church
August 14, 2016
The Parables of Jesus:
The Great Banquet – Are You In or Out?
Part 2
Luke 14:15-24

REVIEW

Excuses – they're easy to make; can fit into almost any situation or scenario; come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and levels of believability, but ultimately usually only serve to move you backwards in some way.

The Parables of Jesus

- What is a parable?
 - A short story that teaches a moral or spiritual lesson
 - Allegory – a story where each of the elements of the story represent something else
- The parable was the most often used style of Jesus used
 - The Bible records 39 parables

Where is Jesus when he shares the parable of this chapter (context)?

- He is having dinner in the home of a Pharisee
- It is taking place on the Sabbath
- The Sabbath law of rest was given by Moses and carried a death penalty if broken (Ex 35:2)
 - The Pharisees seemed to think that this was their best chance of getting rid of Jesus
 - Several times in the Gospels they attempt to make this an issue with what Jesus is doing
- But this not a relaxed meal filled with laughter; there is actually probably a great deal of tension – not from Jesus but the Pharisees – and it's about to get much worse
 - **Luke 14:1** – He was being carefully watched
- They begin to play out their plan by placing a sick man in front of Jesus (14:2)
 - He confronts them with their lack of compassion for a hurting man because of a law that they would quickly break (14:5)
- Here Jesus asks the first of two questions that they cannot answer and Jesus addresses their greatest stumbling block - pride
 1. Not taking the seat of honor – self-promotion and manipulation
 2. Your heart dictates your actions
- The tension is mounting because they know He is talking not just with them but to them and about them.
- One of the guests does what many of us might do as well – fill the silence!
- **V 15** – “...*Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the Kingdom of God.*”

- Jesus knows that those words are a prideful boast of who the men seated at that table thought they were
- But I can imagine Jesus giving him a look that says...”Oh, really?”

READ – Luke 14:15-24

- Again it is easy to imagine the tension that is hanging over the table
 - Who were on the guest list of this dinner?
 - The most powerful and popular people of the day
 - Who was NOT invited to this dinner?
 - The poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame
- Jesus states very plainly through this parable the people you think are so important are not who my father values
- What were the excuses that Jesus highlighted?
 - **Excuse #1** – Just bought a field (my interests)
 - Who buys a piece of property without seeing it first?
 - It would be like buying a house over the phone without seeing it first
 - **Excuse #2** – Just bought 5 yoke of oxen (my possessions)
 - Again, like buying 5 cars over the phone don’t even know if they’ll start or not
 - **Excuse #3** – just got married (my relationships)
 - Okay that one’s not too bad
- But all of them were saying the same thing to the invitation – what I am doing is more important than what you are doing or want me to do
 - Many people say that to God today
 - Many Christians are not in the life they should be because they refuse the invitations from God with their excuses
- Lest you think that I am overstating this and you believe that true men and women of the Bible (“a mature Christian like me”) would never make excuses to God turn to **Exodus 3**
Ex 3:10-14; 4:1, 10, 13
- Moses put up 5 excuses before God (the “W’s”) as to why he should not go to Pharaoh
 1. “Who Me?” (3:11-12)
 - Pretty pitiful but it is usually the first and most common for most people
 - What was the reason? Go back one chapter...
 - **Ex 2:11-14** - *One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, “Why are you hitting your*

fellow Hebrew?” The man said, “Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?”

- Moses is, like many people, allowing his past failures to dictate who he is in the present and even who he could be in the future
 - His intervention and attempt at deliverance for just one man 40 years earlier had not gone well and led to his exile to Midian
 - Moses was allowing the events of his past to mark his identity and chain him to that time and event
 - God brings change to our lives when we surrender to Him (2 Cor 5:17)
 - Moses did not want to face rejection and failure – giving in to his fears.
 - His first excuse was doubt in himself, His second excuse however was even worse – doubt in God
2. “Who are You?” (3:13-15)
- God did not ask Moses to try and explain what He did not know about God only what He did know
 - I AM WHO I AM
 - Heb 13:8 – *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*
 - Jesus – God incarnate meaning in bodily form
 - What God is saying to Moses is what He is also saying to Christians today – it doesn’t have anything to do with who you are but it has everything to do with who I am
3. “What if...?” (4:1-9)
- ‘What if’s’ are the killers of opportunities, dreams, and victory and they are entirely fabricated!
 - What if they make fun of me if I tell them about Jesus?
 - What if a meteor falls out of the sky and smashes my car?
 - God met Moses’ ‘what if’ with three proofs of His power
 - + Staff into snake and then back again (3:2-4)
 - + Hand leprous and then healed again (3:6-7)
 - + Poured water from the Nile turned to blood (3:9)
 - Importance within the first proof - God asked Moses, “What is that in your hand?”
 - God never asks questions because He needs the information it is always for us to see and understand
 - God used what Moses had right then and there
 - God will work through you with what you have and where you are right now
 - + You don’t have to have a degree in biblical studies to share who Jesus is with someone (understand the Word)
 - + You don’t have to have 100 Bible verses memorized
 - + You don’t even have to have been a Christian for X number of years (Africa/India)

4. "What if I stutter?" (3:10-12)
 - This would have been news to Stephen who in Acts 7:22 called Moses in his first 40 years a man "mighty in words and deeds"
 - Our shortcomings and inadequacies are just that OURS not Gods
 - God knows exactly who you are and what you are capable of doing
 - Satan wants to tear that knowledge down in you and replace it with doubt, anxiety, and fear
 - God's response to Moses - (Ex 4:11-12) *The LORD said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."*
 - Again, not about who we are but who He is in us!

 5. "Why don't you just send someone else?" (4:13)
 - Not even an excuse just "no" – now God is ticked!
 - God is patient with Moses up until this point
 - Not because He is only patient for 4 excuses but not for 5
 - Because this last one revealed the depth of Moses' doubt and the condition of his heart
 - + Moses, like Jonah, flat out did not trust God to be who He said He is
 - + Excuses, which will lead to the sin of disobedience, also lead to judgement
 - + We will all stand before the Throne of God one day without excuses
 - Excuses not only anger God they discourage the church body
 - A few end up doing the work that could be made lighter and better by many
- The result of excuses most often bring problems and even disaster
 - Was Aaron in the place he should have been except for the fact that Moses would not fulfill what God called him to do?
 - Aaron led the people into a time of tremendous sin by making the golden calf (Ex 32)
 - Moses ultimately obeyed God (Ex 4:20)
 - God's plan will always be accomplished but what will be your place and part in it?
 - God is looking in this hour for hearts to obey His Word and His call
 - Immediately
 - Joyfully
 - Willingly
 - Do you have that heart?
 - As we grow at RLC will you be willing to step up when asked or even when you just see the need?
 - As your relationship with God grows will you step up when He brings a need across your path or will you make excuses?
 - Let this day be the day that you stop making excuses to God