

Sermon Notes

Title: Over-Confident & Preoccupied

Luke 14:12-24

TIP (Take It Personal)

April 20, 2014

Series: *Walking With Jesus Through the Parables*

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Text: *Luke 14:12-24*

There are occasions when I have received a card in the mail that reads “Save the Date”! It is usually for a wedding or some other big event that you don’t want to miss. Later on you receive another notice letting you know the specifics.

We find ourselves on this Easter weekend in another of Jesus's parables. It is the parable of the Great Banquet. The banquet is representative of the Kingdom of God. The story line of the parable has the idea of "save the date". Invitations have been sent and then at some point down the road the one who is putting on the banquet sends one of his servants to notify everyone that the banquet is now ready.

Why is Jesus sharing this particular parable? He is addressing two very important matters which should concern us today. One is over confidence in our own spirituality and the other is preoccupation. Jesus's audience was very confident that they would be in the coming kingdom of God. However, as the parable illustrates, they were so preoccupied with temporal things of this world, they asked to be excused from attending the banquet.

What does all this have to do with Easter? God through his prophets had made known to Israel that Messiah was coming to establish the Kingdom of God. However, when Jesus did come, the nation of Israel missed it and found preoccupation with things of the world more important.

Where have you placed your confidence as you face eternity?
What preoccupies your attention so much so that if eternity began right now you would be ill-prepared?

Happy Easter

Pastor Ed

Luke 14:1-24

Though the parable is contained in verses 12-24 the preceding context is vital to understanding the mood and message of this parable. Take a few minutes to read verses 1-24.

1. After reading the verses leading up to the exclamation made in verse 15, what do you think was the attitude in which the statement was made ?
2. Jesus then proceeds to tell a parable. All parables are designed to answer a question or address a problem. What is the problem or question Jesus is addressing in this parable? Does verse 15 help us to understand the question?
3. What do you think the banquet represents and who are those that have been invited?
4. What are the three excuses given as to why the person invited would not be attending the banquet?
5. The parable is about an invitation from God to enter his kingdom. Entrance is only provided through Jesus Christ. Have you accepted God's invitation to place saving faith in what Christ has accomplished for you on the cross and through his resurrection?
6. What are some excuses people use as to why they ignored God's invitation?
7. What are some excuses you have used in the past or perhaps even now?
8. How do Christians preoccupy themselves with things of this world and thereby trivialize the things of eternal importance?
9. In what ways can we be over-confident in our own spirituality?