

## ***Parables of Grace***

### ***What is a Parable?***

- NOT an illustration to help a theological discussion
- It is a DRAMATIC CONFRONTATION in STORY form
  - Affirms Jesus as master/Lord
  - Forces a response from the listener
  - Forces 'out-of-the-box' thinking
  - Reveals the nature of the kingdom of God
  - Reveals how a child of the kingdom is to act
- It challenges people to feel, react, respond

### ***Parables of Grace:***

Jesus challenged the religious leaders and non-religious sinners of His day to leave formalized / ritualistic religion and celebrate the life of GRACE that characterized the new Kingdom of the Messiah.

1. The Great Banquet (Luke 14:15-24)
2. The Lost Sheep and Coin (Luke 15:1-10)
3. The Lost Boys (Luke 15:11-32)
4. The Shrewd Manager (Luke 16:1-8)

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### ***The Great Banquet - "An Unavoidable R.S.V.P."***

*(Luke 14:15-24)*

### ***The Setting***

- A formal banquet at house of a Pharisee (14:1)
- Teaches on Sabbath (2-6) humility (7-11) compassion (12-14)
- Someone picks up the theme and says... (15)  
"Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God"
- Banquet always a symbol of salvation (Messiah's banquet)

## ***The Parable***

### 1. Banquet Preparations (16,17)

- A double invitation
  - R.S.V.P. to get a head count
  - "come – all things are now ready"

### 2. Unexpected Responses

- Real estate excuse (18)

*"My field is more important than a relationship with you!"*

- Ploughing excuse (19)

*"My animals are more important than a relationship with you!"*

- Wedding excuse (20)

*"My responsibilities are more important than a relationship with you!"*

## ***Understanding the Story***

- The Messianic Banquet has come
  - 1<sup>st</sup> invitation – O.T. prophets
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> invitation – Jesus calls all to come
- The invitation broadens
  - From the "in" group → to outcasts of the city (21) → to riff-raff outside the city (23)
  - Signals the expansion of the Gospel to Gentiles
- There is still room – today!
- GRACE displayed – shocking to the religious leaders
  - The undeserving were welcomed
  - Those incapable of returning the favour were "made" to come

***What is your response to the invitation?  
Excuse OR Acceptance?***