

Introduction: Luke 14:1-24

- In the 1967 movie "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," a young woman named Joey Drayton brings home her fiancé, John Way Prentice to meet her parents. The parents had always thought of themselves as being without prejudice but are shocked to discover that their daughter's fiancé is black, and that this disturbs them. This movie, which revolves around a dinner party, exposes the tendency to think that we are something that we are not. We often have flaws that go unnoticed until they are revealed in certain situations. This dinner reveals the parent's character flaws and leads them to re-examine the condition and attitudes of their own hearts. //// Something similar happens in our Bible text today. Jesus comes to dinner but instead of polite table talk, this dinner conversation probably causes those present to wish that they had brought more Roloids. //// Jesus' actions, parable, and exhortation exposed the character flaws of those present. The Pharisees, who are what we would describe as "church-going people," thought of themselves as spiritual and godly but like in the aforementioned movie, the truth will come out. Jesus exposed three serious character flaws at this dinner: judgmentalism, pride, and selfishness and neglect.
- Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath in front of the Pharisees, whom He knows already have an issue with this.
- Remember how people complained because Jesus "ate with sinners?" Why did they get upset? Because to eat with someone was indicative of friendship or a healthy relationship, so by eating with sinners Jesus was showing himself to be a "friend of sinners." This association between eating with someone and a healthy relationship with that person was true also of a healthy relationship with God. This is why in many of the parables and metaphors of the Bible, those who are in or have returned to a healthy relationship with God are said to be invited to his table or participants in his banquets.
- Most of us enjoy being in the right place, with the right people at the right time. That is the story of these teachings of Jesus. The Pharisees enjoyed the right place with the right people at the right time. That brings Jesus to come in with guns blazing.

I. Best Dinner - You All are Judgmental

- A. Jesus offends their belief system. He is talking to people of "faith".
- B. The dinner was a set and the pharisee and people were watching Him. Do you have a biblical basis for making your judgment? vs 3
- C. Not only do you not have biblical support, but your judgement is hypocritical. Ie. Like the man who was following a car that was weaving on the road. He pulls up beside the car and noticed it was a woman putting on mascara. It infuriated him! Then she weaved his way. Scared him so bad he dropped his cell phone into his cup of coffee.
- D. Jesus is telling the Pharisees that they are guilty of the very thing they are accusing Him of.
- E. Application:
 1. Is there biblical support for the judgements you make?
 2. Do you condemn others for what you practice in principal?

II. Best - You all are proud.

- A. Jesus Offends the guests

- B. Best seat is not determined by our assertiveness or opinion of ourselves. They believed that had to promote themselves to get ahead. But we are not to determine the best seat.
- C. Best seat is determined by the host.
- D. He who exalts himself will be humbled. (Lk 14:11) The failure to be humble can be humiliating.
 1. *"... And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.""* (1 Peter 5:5, NLT)
 2. *"The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: "I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts."* (Isaiah 57:15, NLT)
- E. The best seat is the last seat. According to Jesus the best seat in the house is the lowest seat.
- F. Best seat is the least seat desired.

III. **Best Guests - you all are selfish.**

- A. Jesus offends the host
- B. Selfishness, in this case, refers to those times when we only serve or share with those that can return the favor or repay us in some fashion. He is not just talking about sharing your food. Jesus is talking about how we are to share our lives in giving to others.
- C. Invite people in and give away yourself to those who can't repay. Wasn't that like Jesus? He had everything but gave it all away to people who could never repay or give back.
- D. Heavens currency is based on those who cant return a thing.
- E. The man with dropsy was invited by the Pharisees to be used. Jesus is saying, we must invite him because he cant be used, he had nothing to offer in return. He is to be invited simply because we care!

IV. **Best Subject - you all will turn down the invitation.**

- A. Jesus offends everyone!
- B. We must read this in light of Chapter 13 where Jesus is calling people into the Kingdom. They have been refusing to hear so now he is going to the Gentiles. In other words the Gospel comes to us. We are the poor the crippled and the blind. When the Gospel comes to us we must rise to receive it.
- C. Don't be confident in who you are and expect to get into the feast.
- D. In this parable the heavenly father is the host.
- E. Each of us are the invited.
- F. Jesus indicated that the prominent people would turn down the invitation given them and that the guests would be those they would never have anticipated, indeed, that they would never have invited to their own banquets.

Conclusion:

- When we first arrived in Florida in 1985 everyone used to say watch out for the sharks. But the people we first stayed with said, "Forget the sharks watch out for the jelly fish."
- Sometimes we watch for the big sin and it's the little one that get us.