

UPSIDE DOWN THE WAY OF THE KINGDOM PART 4
“PARABLE OF THE GREAT FEAST”
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 14:16-24
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I. WHY JESUS TOLD STORIES

- Jesus told parables (stories) because they stick, they are memorable and can be retold easily.
- Mark 4:10-12 - He also told stories to conceal truth from the arrogant and reveal truth to the humble.
- Do you have a humble heart that is willing to accept truth even when it is hard, even when it is painful, even when you don't like it?
- Most of us don't need more truth, we don't even need new truth, we just need to accept and apply the truth that is already in front of us.
- Two prerequisites to accepting hard truth: awareness and humility.

II. A SAD RESPONSE TO A GREAT INVITATION

- The man in the story represents God. The banquet represents the Kingdom. The guests represent you and me.
- God is inviting you into His Kingdom. He is inviting you into a personal relationship with Jesus. What is stopping you from saying “Yes!”
- Billy Sunday said, “An excuse is the skin of a reason stuffed with a lie.”
- For some of us, our priorities will determine whether we participate in the Kingdom or not.

III. WHAT IT TAKES TO SAY “YES!”

- “God, I would commit to you but...”
- If you don't know what God is inviting you to, you may end up saying no to the greatest invitation ever.
- Do you understand who is inviting you. The God of the universe is saying, “You want to come to My house for dinner?”
- The Kingdom of God is portrayed as a banquet, not a chore or a prison sentence!
- It requires reordering of our priorities.
- Mark 8:34-36, “...Give up your own way, take up your cross and follow me...”

IV. THE OUTSIDERS GET INVITED IN

- The good news of the kingdom is that the lost, the ashamed, the forgotten and the unimportant are invited in.
- Romans 5:8, “...While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...”