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# “EARS TO HEAR”

Living the Parables  
of Jesus



Summer 2024 – Greenfield Community Church

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# JESUS’ TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL DINNER PARTIES

The Parable of the Big Dinner  
Luke 14:1-24

Greenfield Community Church  
Pastor Tyler Williams  
July 7, 2024



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## A DINNER PARTY IN THREE SCENES

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1. A Sabbath Healing (14:1-6).
  2. Tips for Successful Dinner Parties (14:7-14).
  3. The Parable of the Great Banquet (14:15-24).
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## A SABBATH DINNER PARTY

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A Sabbath Healing (14:1-6)

- Likely dropsy or edema (swelling caused by too much fluid trapped in the body’s tissues).
  - An **ironic critique** of those who thirst for status and honour?
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## TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL DINNER PARTIES

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A Parable about Honour & Hospitality (14:7-14).



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## TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL DINNER PARTIES

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Tips for the Guests

- Don't take the place of honour!
- “For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted” (14:11).

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## TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL DINNER PARTIES

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Tips for the Host

- Don't invite those who can reciprocate!
- “But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed” (14:14).

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## TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL DINNER PARTIES

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Reversals, Honour, and Status in the Kingdom of God.

- Markers of human status are irrelevant in God's eyes! In the kingdom of God “the last will be first, and first will be last” (13:30).
- Challenges the rules of reciprocity and encourages giving without the expectation of return.

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## TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL DINNER PARTIES

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“Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God!” (14:15).

- Makes the connection between current table fellowship and the anticipated table fellowship when God’s kingdom is fully realized (cf. Isaiah 26:6-8; Revelation 19:9).
  - Our current dining etiquette is supposed to be a foretaste of the future eschatological banquet!
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## THE GREAT BANQUET

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The Invitations (14:15-17).

- The practice of double invitations.



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## THE GREAT BANQUET

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The Rejections (14:18-20).

- ALL the invited guests reject the second invitation!
  - The excuses may sound legit, but they are not.
  - Show their preoccupation with everyday business and relations (cf. Luke 8:14).
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## THE GREAT BANQUET

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The Host’s Response (14:21-24).

- He doesn’t respond with reprisals, rather he responds with generosity and grace.
  - Invites “the poor and disabled and blind and lame” (the same group he noted in 14:13).
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## THE GREAT BANQUET

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To ensure that his “house is full”, the host sends out his servant to “go out to the roads and country lanes” and compel more to come (14:23).

- These outside the city would be the outcast groups such as tanners, traders, beggars, prostitutes, or minority ethnic groups who required access to the city, but were not allowed to live within it.
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## WHAT’S THE POINT?

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God generously and inclusively invites ALL.

When the kingdom of God came in the person of Jesus, those expected to receive it didn't and the ones least expected to did.

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## WHAT’S THE POINT?

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The values of the kingdom of God are contrary to the values of this world.

- In the kingdom of God, a true host does not care about status, reciprocity, or honour.
  - Our life together should reflect the values of the kingdom of God and be a foretaste of the future eschatological banquet.
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