

THE GREAT BANQUET

So, welcome back. Take some time to tell your story since you last met – including some of the oranges and the odd lemon.

Just to add a twist, see if you can do the above without mentioning COVID, pandemic, restrictions, isolation, mandates or masks.



By way of review...

Luke 1:1–4 ¹ Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. ² They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples.

³ Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, ⁴ so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.

The Gospel of Luke was written to firm up the faith of Theophilus and those like him in the early church by retelling the “carefully investigated” evidence around Jesus Christ.

Read Luke 14:12-24, taking the time to reflect upon phrases and words used, new things learned, repeated phrases, words you’re unsure of the meaning, questions you’re asking and listening to what God is saying:

1. Think of a time when you made plans for your friends to hang out but your friends didn’t come—how did you feel? Share this experience.
2. What title would you give this parable? ie., The great banquet, Lame excuses...
3. What was the context of this parable?
4. The excuses: what made them lame? What are some of the excuses offered up today?

5. What about the people who said “no,” and the people who said “yes”? What do they represent?

6. Instead of cancelling the banquet, the host extended his invitation, but who to? What does this tell us of the heart of God?

7. Go to Acts 10 and read Luke account of this happening in real time, and the tension it caused (Acts 15) Any parallels?

8. It appears to be an obvious question, but how do we see the Gospel in Luke 14?
1 Timothy 2:4 (NLT) ⁴ who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

PRAYER

Father, forgive us when we think that our righteousness makes us fit for your table. Thank you that your good news is for us as well: the outcast, the poor, the destitute. Help us to lift our eyes beyond those that are 'in' to those yet to be at the banquet of your kingdom.

JOURNALING

Take a few moments to record your personal insights from this lesson.