

=THE PARABLES=

Lesson 4

The Great Supper

AIM: to teach my pupils the meaning and truth of the Parable of the Great Supper, as found in Luke 14:16-24.

POINT OF CONTACT: Have the class discuss how they would describe a great supper. Have them suggest the environment, food, etc. that would be included in such an event. The teacher could even bring some refreshments and table service.

I. THE PREPARATION AND THE INVITATION.

1. Verse 16a, "A certain man." This man represents God the Father.
2. Verse 16b, "...made a great supper." This represents salvation.
3. Verse 16b. Note the two words, "man made." The man represents God the Father, which means that salvation is of the Lord. God made it, not man.
4. Verse 16c, "...and bade many." This is the invitation to the supper. It is given to all men.
5. Verse 17a. Notice the words, "And sent his servant at supper time...." The servant represents the Holy Spirit.
6. Verse 17b, "Come." This is in the form of a public announcement. This word represents public preaching energized by the Holy Spirit.
7. Verse 17c, "...for all things are now ready." This represents the words of Jesus said on the cross, "It is finished." Salvation is all of the Lord.

II. THE EXCUSES.

1. A purchase of land. Luke 16:18. Notice the folly of this excuse. Who would buy a piece of ground before he has seen it?
2. A purchase of oxen. Luke 16:19. Again we find a lie. Who would buy five yoke of oxen without first proving them?
3. Marriage. Luke 16:20. Once again we have a foolish excuse. What man, having recently taken a wife, would not want to show her off and honor her at a great supper or great banquet?
4. Think of excuses you have heard people give for not coming to Christ or to church. Then ask the class to give some that they have heard.

III. THE COMMISSION. Since the public announcement would not succeed, private invitations were in order. Let us notice in verse 21-24 the places we are to go to give this private invitation.

1. Streets. The word "streets" in verse 21 means big streets, city streets, etc. We are to spread the Gospel here. First Baptist Church does this through its Rescue Mission, its downtown location, etc.
2. Lanes. The word "lanes" in verse 21 means the residential area. First Baptist Church does this through its visitation program, its bus ministry, etc.
3. The poor. The work is done in our church through the Rescue Mission, the bus ministry, the ministry to the homeless, and other benevolent works.
4. The maimed, the halt, and the blind. This work is done in our church through the deaf work, the work with our blind, the rest home classes, our "F" Sunday school, the hospital work, etc.
5. The highways. We are to get the wanderers, the travelers, the truck drivers, etc.
6. The hedges. This means the rural areas, etc.

CONCLUSION: What part of the above commission are you fulfilling? This commission is given to every one of God's children. We are commanded to be soul winners!