



March 30/31

YOU'RE INVITED

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INTRODUCTION

Chapters 13, 14 and 15 in the Gospel of Luke are packed with powerful lessons. This week, Pastor Chip focuses on the Parable of the Great Banquet in Luke 14:15-23, providing a glimpse of the invitational heart of God. God's love compels Him to extend everyone an invitation into new life with Him. We are all invited to join God's party!

DISCUSSION

1. **Read Luke 14:7-11.** God's invitation must be received with a humble heart. Discuss how humility allows us to repent of sins, enables us to see the needs of others and helps us celebrate what God celebrates and values. How should you respond when pride gets in the way?
2. **Read Luke 14:18-20** and discuss how excuses can hinder our growth as Christians. How does this passage change your perspective about some of your own excuses? What steps will you take to manage them differently?
3. Humility allows us to enjoy God's invitation. Christians should be the most peace-filled and joyful people on the planet! **Read Romans 15:13.** How can you be more intentional about remembering, and celebrating, God's love and grace every day?
4. **Read Luke 14:23** and **Matthew 28:19-20.** Our job as Christians is to tell others about God's invitation to salvation. Pair up and practice what you will say when God provides opportunities to share the Gospel. Discuss how you can you apply Safety Third principles to overcome your fears.

DO SOMETHING

1. The three parables in Luke 15 demonstrate God's relentless love for us and how He rejoices when we are rescued from trouble. Read this article to discover another important lesson.
2. Personal Devotions: **Read Luke 14:25-27.** The idea is your love for Jesus must be so great that your love for even your family members, and your own life, will seem to be hatred by comparison. Now **read 2 Corinthians 13:5-6.** Do you pass the test? Is Jesus first in every area of your life? Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance if course corrections need to be made.
3. It takes humility - thinking of yourself less - to tell others about Jesus, invite them to church or invest in them. Who do you need to reach out to in your Little Iowa? Who will you invite to the Easter service?

RESOURCES

1. *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming* is a bestseller that explains how Rembrandt's painting of this parable prompted the author, Henri Nouwen, to embark on a life-changing spiritual journey.
2. Are those victimized by catastrophes and natural disasters being punished for their sins? **Read Luke 13:1-9** and this devotional to find the answer.
3. *Luke: Gospel of Reassurance* is a video series exploring the historical and social context of this Gospel and how God used the research skills of a doctor to share the life and teachings of Jesus.