

Kingdom of God 3 - Leader's Guide - The Kingdom is a Party!

See Bible study at the bottom of the page.

- 1. In ancient Middle Eastern culture, you gave 2 invitations to a party. When would the first invitation be given? (Well in advance of the party.)**
- 2. When would the second invitation come? (On the actual day of the party.)**
- 3. Why would most people say yes to a banquet invitation? (Most people led boring lives. It was an honor to be invited. They were farmers struggling to get enough food. Most would not turn down a free meal from a rich man!)**
- 4. What excuses did the 3 guests in the parable make? (One bought a field and needed to go see it. Another bought 5 yoke of oxen and needed to try them out. A third just got married.)**
- 5. How does the master feel when the guests turn down his invitation? (The master feels angry.)**
- 6. Who will be invited in place of the guests who won't come? (The poor, crippled, blind, and lame.)**
- 7. There is still room at the banquet. Where will the servant go next? (He will go *outside the city* to the country lanes, beyond the hedges.)**
- 8. Who is the rich host in the story? What does the banquet represent? (Rich man = God. Banquet = kingdom of God)**
- 9. Who do the first invited guests represent? Are their excuses genuine? (First invited guests = Jewish people. Their excuses are fake and insulting.)**
- 10. The man who bought a field says he needs to look at it first. Why is this fake? (No one would buy land without looking at it first.)**
- 11. The man who bought oxen says he needs to test them first. Why is this fake? (No one would buy oxen without testing them first to see if they pull together.)**
- 12. The host is angry. How does he turn his anger to grace, not revenge? (He invites the poor, crippled, blind, lame, street people, and homeless.)**
- 13. Who are the crippled, blind, and lame in the parable? (Outcasts in Israel.)**

14. Who do the second group of outcasts *outside the city* represent?
(Gentiles and foreigners)
15. According to the parable, who is invited into the kingdom of God? (Jews, non-Jews, rich, poor, all nations.)
16. What excuses might modern-day people give for not entering the kingdom of God? (They are too busy with their cell phones, computers, and friends.)
17. Have you said yes to your personal invitation? (Answers will vary.)

The Kingdom of God- 3

Parables of the Kingdom

Luke 14- Parable of the Great Banquet

- Jesus eats at Pharisee's home. Heals man with swollen legs on Sabbath.
- Jesus: "Is it right to heal on the Sabbath?" Pharisees are silent.
- Jesus: You would pull out your son, ox out of well on Sabbath if it fell in. Hypocrites!
- Jesus criticizes guests for taking best seats at banquet. Teaches about being humble.
- Jesus tells host to invite poor, blind for dinner, not just friends
- V.15 Dinner guest (Jewish) assumes he will be at banquet in kingdom. It'll be great!
- Jesus tells Parable of Great Banquet.
- Man plans big party. Invites many. They accept. When banquet is ready, (2nd invitation) they back out. Last minute. Insult! Poor excuses!
- None of original guests who refuse invitation will get in! (Jewish religious leaders)

Luke 14: 15-24 Who is God?

- Lord. Master of House. Wants to bless people.
- Generous host. Invites MANY! Big heart! GIVER! v. 16
- Likes to celebrate. Likes parties. Joyous, happy.
- Invites Jewish religious leaders into the kingdom
- His banquet is free. He pays for banquet. Attractive offer!
- Does not force anyone to accept invitation.
- Wants us to put kingdom first – ahead of things, work, people
- Angry when people reject his kind invitation v. 21
- Not satisfied with ½ full banquet hall. Wants a full house.
- Opens up invitation to down-and-out, needy, broken. Group 2 = outcasts in Israel. Pharisees thought these people were unclean.

- Gives to people who can never repay him. Gracious!
- Loves ALL regardless of race, class. Loves to spend time with us.
- V. 23 Group 3 = Gentiles. God broadens his invitation!
- V. 24 Tells Pharisees they will not get in. Rely on themselves. Proud.

Who Is Man?

- Pharisees all assume they will be at the banquet v. 15
- Can't enter banquet without an invitation. By GRACE.
- Receive 2 invitations. All accept first one. Say they'll accept and don't.
- Reject God. Make weak excuses. NO VALID EXCUSES.*
- They lie- who would buy a field without looking at it first?
- Put possessions ahead of God. Distracted by things.
- They lie - Who would buy oxen without trying them out?
- Put work, success, power ahead of God
- Put relationships ahead of God. They idolize people.
- Insult God by backing out at the last minute. Insult Him 3x
- Bad priorities. Focused on this life, not eternity.

So What?

- Kingdom is FUN! It's a party! God likes fun!
- Good things (work, relationships) can be wrong if they distract us from the best.
- It's possible to be "religious" and miss out on the kingdom
- We can fool ourselves like the Pharisees. They think they're in for sure!
- There is no valid reason to refuse God's generous invitation.
- People miss out on the kingdom by their own choice
- Am I focused only on material possessions? (field)
- Am I focused only on WORK, making money, success, power? (oxen)
- Do I idolize people and put them ahead of God in my life?
- What is more important in my life than the kingdom?
- I am responsible to invite others into the kingdom.
- Do I encourage people that God wants them?
- Do I invite ALL – including the needy and broken?
- There is still room at the banquet!

