



SACRIFICIAL WONDER

Luke 14:17 – 24

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MESSAGE NOTES

- **Following Christ leads to a surprising level of sacrificial giving**

He said also to the man who had invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed..."

– Luke 14:12 – 14 (ESV)

Now He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noticed how they chose the places of honor...

– Luke 14:7 (ESV)

"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple." – Luke 14:26 (ESV)

For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own...

– 2 Corinthians 8:3 (NIV)

"No matter how I slice it, I know Jesus doesn't mean it literally, that you don't ever see your friends or anything like that, but no matter how I read it, it means I should be giving away a lot more money than I am." – John Newton on Luke 14

- **A growing pattern of sacrificial generosity is founded in the wonder of God's grace**

"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you." – Luke 14:8 – 10 (ESV)

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

– Luke 14:11 (ESV)

- **Because Christ gives us greater inner wealth**

But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just." – Luke 14:13-14 (ESV)

- **Because Christ promises the riches of lasting joy in heaven**

When one of those who reclined at table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" – Luke 14:15 (ESV)



But He said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many..." – Luke 14:16 (ESV)

*'...Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.'
– Luke 14:21 (ESV)*

And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. – Luke 14:23 (ESV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion starter: What's the biggest party you have ever been invited to? How did the host of the party decide who would be invited?
- Read Luke 15:17 – 24. Why does the level of sacrificial giving that Jesus invites us to seem surprising at first glance, yet it is completely legitimate?
- If you were to grow in the habit of sacrificial generosity for God's kingdom, would God lead you to give more time or more money? Why?
- Read Luke 14:13 – 14. What does the Bible mean when it says, "we will be repaid at the resurrection of the just"?
- What is God speaking to you about from this passage?
- How does following Christ change our priorities when it comes to our time and money?
- Read 2 Corinthians 8:3. The example of the Macedonian church's generosity teaches us many things about the giving of our time and money for God's glory. What does it mean to give "beyond our ability"? What might that look like in your life, in this season?
- Pray for God to give the people of ENCOUNTER His heart for sacrificial generosity. Take some time to pray for some of the ministries and leaders of our church by name. Also, pray for our national leaders and military during this challenging time in the world.