

TURNING THE TABLES, PART 7
ADJUSTING THE GUEST LIST

Luke 14:1-24

Gospel opportunities increase in proportion to our gracious hospitality.

Jesus, the GUEST (14:1-14)

Hypocrisy—Jesus stands against religion-based unkindness, hostility, and neglect of the needy. (1-3)

Healing—Jesus stands against whatever is in us that keeps us from the messianic banquet. (4-6)

Humility—Jesus stands against self-promotion, self-exaltation, and jockeying for position. (7-11)

Hospitality—Jesus stands against using people for personal gain rather than loving them as they are. (12-14)

Jesus, the HOST (14:15-24)

The Burning Question—Who gets to eat at the feast in the kingdom of God? (15)

The Generous Invitation—The host is portrayed as wealthy, gracious, generous, and hospitable. (16)

The Delayed Gratification—The host allows a period of waiting between the invitation and the eating. (17)

The Bogus Explanations—The host will not accept any excuses for his invitation to be rejected. (18-20)

The Unparalleled Humiliation—The host puts himself in a place where he can be publicly dishonored. (21a)

The Justified Irritation—The host is justifiably angry, but he does not repay evil for evil or cease being kind. (21b)

The Surprising Inclusion—The host invites people who were excluded from full participation in worship. (21c)

The Expanded Vision—The host wants his servant to know that *everybody* is welcome at his feast. (22-23a)

The Necessary Persuasion—The host wants his servant to communicate his master's burning passion. (23b)

The Burning Passion—The host deeply desires that the maximum number of people accept his invitation. (23c)

The Shocking Exclusion—The host ultimately allows people to exclude themselves from his great feast. (24)

Jesus, the SAVIOR

It is in God's will that none should perish, but that all would come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The grace of God in Christ enables people to participate in the messianic banquet to come.

The messianic banquet is for the humble; spiritually, *all of us* are "the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind."

On the cross, Jesus allowed himself to be humiliated and rejected so that believers would be honored and accepted.

To be in the kingdom of God, we must personally respond to Jesus' invitation by faith.

Those who do not participate in the great messianic banquet have excluded themselves through unbelief.

It is nothing but grace that allows us to be seated with such a noble host at such a grand and undeserved feast.