

Who Are We Inviting to Know the Lord?

Text: Luke 14:15-24 (see also Matthew 22:1-14)

Introduction: *The average cost of a wedding in the United States is \$95 per guest. What if, after all the arrangements that were made and after the thousands of dollars spent to make your child's wedding a memorable event, no one showed up?*

In Luke 14, Jesus shares a parable about a man who threw a lavish banquet with a great feast, only to have many decline his invitation to come. His response is one we should follow as we invite people to know the Lord.

I. The Kingdom of God is a _____ Place vs.16a

Isaiah 25:6-9; Matthew 8:11; 25:1-10; Revelation 19:9

Philippians 3:13&14; II Timothy 4:6-8

“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were those who thought most about the next.It is because Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one. Aim at heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in.’ Aim at earth and you will get neither.” (C.S. Lewis)

II. God's General Invitation to Heaven is _____ by Many vss.16b-20

Luke 9:57-62

Romans 3:23,10; Isaiah 53:6

John 3:16&17; Luke 2:10&11; Matthew 28:18-20

Luke 14:26,33; Matthew 16:25&26; Deuteronomy 8:11-14

III. God's _____ Invitation is Given to _____ People vss.21-24

Luke 19:1-10; Matthew 9:10-13; Mark 2:15-17; Luke 5:27-32

Romans 5:6,8; Luke 24:32; Matthew 5:14-16; Ephesians 5:8&9

Matthew 11:29; I Corinthians 11:1; John 12:32

Conclusion: Tom Ranier says in his book, entitled, The Unchurched Next Door that 82% of unchurched people surveyed said they would come to church if someone invited them. But, only 2% of those who are church members have ever invited someone to come with them. What are we going to do about that?