

## Your Invitation from God

Luke 14:15-24

### From Pastor Mark

This Advent Season, we are “Following the One Born to Die” in Luke 13-14. Jesus accepted an invitation to a luncheon at the house of a prominent Pharisee. It had already been a tense meal, as Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath, challenged the guests on their scramble for the best seats, and encouraged the host to broaden his guest list! Now Jesus, wanting to lovingly shake the Jewish religious leaders out of their hard hearted opposition to Him and His message, presented a surprising, even humorous story without a punch line, but with a real punch. In the process, we all receive powerful warnings regarding our response to God’s Invitation.

- I. **DON’T BE OVERCONFIDENT (14:15)**
  - A. The Occasion of the Exclamation (14b)
  - B. The Outburst of the Exclamation
  - C. The Overconfidence of the Exclamation
  
- II. **DON’T MAKE EXCUSES (14:16-21)**
  - A. The Lavish (and general) Invitation (16)
  - B. The Ludicrous Excuses (18-20)
    1. The Human Tendency (18a)
    2. Wealth (18b)
    3. Work (19)
    4. Family (20)
  
- III. **DON’T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY (14:22-24)**
  - A. The Righteous Anger of the Host (21a)
  - B. The Generosity of the Host (21b)
  - C. The Determination of the Host (22-23)
    1. To Urge Everyone to Join Him
    2. To Fill His House
  - D. The Shock of Missed Opportunity (24, Proverbs 1:22-32)

“Now is the accepted time. Now is the day of salvation.”

### TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

1. Be honest—what excuses sometimes keep you from fully following Jesus?
2. Who do you know that needs to be invited to hear about Jesus? What will you do to reach out this Christmas season?

**FOR NEXT TIME:** Read Luke 14:25-35, “From the Manger to the Cross”