

You're Invited! (Luke 14:15-24)

What are we doing? What is Local Church St. Pete about? Why are we here? Jesus tells the story of a banquet set and ready where the marginalized and outcasts of this world are welcomed in. Simply put, we're inviting others to that banquet, to see Jesus for who he is and what he's accomplished. To our amazement we've found a place at the table and still there's room for more.

1. The guest's excuses (Luke 14:15-20)

"Everything is ready" and the excuses that follow

"the Messianic Banquet" = a banquet where death is done away with, tears are wiped away, a day of salvation and victory = Isaiah 25:6-9; Isaiah 55:1-7

"I bought a field", "I bought five oxen", "I've married a wife"

This refusal to come to the banquet prepared for them would have been an insult and financial burden. They're essentially saying, *"This _____ is more important than our relationship."* They put the business of everyday life ahead of the banquet.

2. The master's reaction (Luke 14:21)

"Go" into "streets" and "lanes"

3. The servant's responsibility (Luke 14:22-24)

"There's still room...compel people to come in!"

The "highways" and "hedges" speak of going way beyond the city boundaries.

"Compel" = 2 Corinthians 5:14 "For Christ's love compels us..."

The great banquet anticipated for all these years has arrived in Jesus.

Simply put we're inviting others to a banquet. To see Jesus for who he is and what he's accomplished. His invitation has reached our ears and changed our lives – we've entered in and have, to our amazement, found a place at the table!

V23 is *still* happening! There's *still* room!

The streets and lanes, the highways and hedges of St. Pete are before us.

Our message? *"You have a place at the banquet!"*

Disciples who make disciples to impact the city of St. Pete for Jesus.

How will we do this? = Love. Hospitality. Community.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 14:1-24. Where is Jesus (V1) and what is Jesus responding to when he tells the parable found in VV15-24?
2. The "Messianic Banquet" was something the Jews anticipated. Read Isaiah 25:6-9; Isaiah 55:1-7. How does Isaiah's description of the banquet reflect Jesus' ministry?
3. What do you notice about the excuses given? Why would they have been so offensive to the host? How does "the stuff of everyday life" get in the way of our devotion to Jesus?
4. What have you done with the invitation to the banquet? Have you accepted it? If so, how does the role of "guest" change to that of a "servant-guest" and what does that mean?
5. Practically speaking, what might it look like for us to go out into the "streets" and "lanes" and into the "highways" and "hedges" of St. Pete and "compel" people to come to the banquet?
6. It was said, *"We get to push against our own personal bias and small views of what God can do in other people's lives. We get to watch God break through whatever boundaries we've been duped into thinking are real and watch him break through whatever walls others have put up to keep him out."* Where are you seeing this happen? Pray it would happen more and more.
7. Local Church St. Pete's mission statement is *"Disciples who make disciples to impact the city of St. Pete for Jesus."* How would you explain that to someone?