

NT 503 Reading the new Testament

Professor F. Chan

Duvall, Short Essay #3 Assignment 15-2 (P. 290)

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Interpret the parable of the great banquet in Luke 14:15 - 24 according to the interpretive principles explained in this chapter in the section dealing with parables.

A parable is a symbolic story that describes universal truth. To interpret a parable we need to find one teaching point for each main character avoiding too much elaboration and the conclusion must be understood by the original audience. (J. Scott Duvall, and J. Daniel Hays, *Grasping God's Word*, (Michigan: Zondervan, 2012) P.287.)

Jesus delivered various examples of the parable in the bible and 'the great banquet' story is one of them. Here is how we can apply to the parable of the Great Banquet.

Master	God offers us the Feasts(salvation), the kingdom of God.
Servant	Disciples of Jesus must preach the kingdom of God to everyone.
Guests	People who are humble obey God's words and attend the feast.

Jesus told this parable when he was invited to a Pharisee's feast. The wealthy and socially renowned people might be invited to the feast. Jesus exhorted the host to invite the disabled, the poor, and the trivial on the streets in order to be repaid on the day of resurrection of the righteous (Luke 14:13). To enter the Kingdom of God we need to follow God's heart for our neighbors, especially for those who are in need.

Some people say that the guests who were cast out from the banquet represent Jews and those who entered the banquet represent gentiles. But that's not the case. God cares whether each individual is humble enough to hear His voice or not. These are what Jesus was talking about.