



Luke
Chapter 14:15-24
New International Version

The Parable of the Great Banquet

¹⁵ When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, **“Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”**

¹⁶ Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

¹⁸ “But they all alike began to make **excuses**. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’

¹⁹ “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’

²⁰ “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’

²¹ “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’

²² “‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’

²³ “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴ I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

“If a man has recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married” (Dt 24:5).

They live best together who live with God.

(Money is like salt water) --



Sermon Notes

A MOMENT OF DECISION!

Stewardship is for the INVITED

‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

Stewardship is for the DISTRACTED

Laming Excuses

The excuse of Wealth

The excuse of Possessions

The excuse of Time (Dt 24:5)

Stewardship is for the EXCITED

“A Gloomy Christian is a Contradiction”

Stewardship ask us...

Who can be counted on?

Who is preparing?

Who is growing?

Stewardship is preparation, driven by ANTICIPATION



Expand Your Faith

The Need to Give

The privacy of the purse makes it extremely difficult for Christians to talk about their money. The fig leaf has slipped from the genitals to the wallet. The problem is compounded by hard-sell media evangelists raising funds for their personal empire. But Paul devotes two whole chapters to the grace of giving, because both he and the Corinthians have a problem in this area.

Warm Up: Reflect on your own giving. When is it hard for you? When is it easy?

Discovering the Word (Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15)

- ◆ In what ways are the Macedonians excellent examples of generosity (8:1-5)?
- ◆ In both chapters Paul refrains from using the word *money*. Instead he speaks of *sharing* (8:4; 9:13), *service* (8:4, 18; 9:1, 12-13), *offering* (8:19), *grace* (8:6-7) and *gift* (8:12, 20; 9:5). What insights do these words give us into the nature of giving?
- ◆ Paul never raised money for himself, for his own missionary work or even for Corinth Community Church. What is the primary goal that governs his appeal for gifts (8:10-15)?
- ◆ What care does Paul take to avoid any suspicion of dishonesty or self-interest as he handles this large gift (8:16-24)?
- ◆ Some people teach that giving money to the Lord's work results in your getting more money yourself. What does Paul say about the personal benefits of giving (9:6-11)?

Applying the Word

- ◆ What positive and negative feelings do you have about people raising money for a Christian cause?

Paul encourages *cheerful* giving (v. 7). The word is the root of our English hilarious. It is the exact opposite of calculated giving under

compulsion. According to these two chapters, how could you become a more cheerful giver?