

**Sunday, November 20, 2016**

“The Answer”

Doug Kempton

**Key Passages: Luke 14:12-24**

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Now would also be a great time to allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday’s message

**Main Ideas**

- Jesus is at a dinner party hosted by a Jewish leader, and he gets invited because of his “rock-star” status.
- People would come to such a party and watch (creating a clear line of who is “IN” and who is “OUT”).
- Our understanding of God affects everything we think/say/do.
- Jesus again shakes up the worldview of the leaders and he wants to shake up ours as well.
  - In that time and culture there was a system of reciprocity.
  - If you did something for someone they would owe you something.
  - Jesus was challenging the people to think differently.
    - In v13, Jesus tells them to invite people who were essentially “cursed”.
    - Karma was a part of their worldview—people who were sick, poor, outcasts must have sinned more.
- When Jesus talked this way He blurred the lines of who was in and who was out.
- He also challenged their “you do something for me and I’ll do something for you” thinking by telling them to seek God’s reward (v14).
- Jesus then tells a parable about a great banquet and an INVITATION that brings up 4 critical questions:
  - What is the event?
    - A **GREAT BANQUET** that is a portrait of belonging, acceptance, and great satisfaction.
    - An invitation to be in the presence of the Living God, both eternally and HERE & NOW.
  - Who is invited?
    - In short, EVERYONE.
    - We are invited but have nothing to give.
    - No one earns the invitation. (Romans 8:31)
  - Who will attend?
    - Only those who ACCEPT the invitation.
    - v18 Many made excuses (all of them good things, but none that interfere with the invitation).
    - Sometimes a good thing prevents the best thing.
    - It’s all inclusive (every tribe, every nation, mosaic).
  - What happens if we refuse the invitation?
    - Many will have great regret.
    - We will stay stuck: dissatisfied; the weight of life never lifts; broken and difficult relationships.
- “Jesus is the answer to every problem you are facing.”
  - Do we actually believe that?
  - We hold the answer to every problem in our city, school, country and every problem for us individually.

**Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)**

1. How do you think your view of God, right or wrong, affects you and your life personally?
2. When was a time when you thought about your life and world from an “I do something for you, you do something for me” perspective?
3. How are you doing currently at responding to God’s invitation to be in His presence in the HERE & NOW?
4. What are your excuses for not accepting God’s invitation?
5. What are the “good things” that could be preventing you from the best that God has for you?
6. What goes on in your heart when you hear Doug’s quote, “Jesus is the answer to every problem you are facing?”
7. What does it look like for you to engage with the Lord in the problems you are facing?
8. What is the Lord inviting you into currently?