



## WEEKLY STUDY

### ***The Party Anyway Mindset - Week Six***

We are wrapping up this series on *Interpreting the Times and the Mindset of Jesus* with a party scene. Jesus found himself at a lot of tables, meals, and celebrations. He didn't shy away from them even when the host was one of his antagonists. And he used each opportunity to point to the Kingdom of God. Read the passage each day this week. Consider how your times of study and prayer help you to stay focused on Jesus.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below.. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

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## DAILY STUDY

### **MONDAY: LUKE 14.7-23 (ESV)**

*Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them,<sup>8</sup> "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him,<sup>9</sup> and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place."<sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you."<sup>11</sup> For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

*He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid."<sup>13</sup> But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,<sup>14</sup> and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."*

<sup>15</sup> When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!”<sup>16</sup> But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many.<sup>17</sup> And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’<sup>18</sup> But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’<sup>19</sup> And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’<sup>20</sup> And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’<sup>21</sup> So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’<sup>22</sup> And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’<sup>23</sup> And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.’

- Jesus pays attention to the guest list because of how he has seen the guests behaving. They are not displaying humility and instead are jockeying for positions of importance at the table. Jesus is concerned with that which sets the stage for true community and encounter with him. Humility seems to be a key part of that environment. How can you set your own heart on humility as you enter into your next party or gathering?
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- **Prayer Prompt:** *I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom,<sup>30</sup> that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom (Luke 22,29-30 ESV)*
- *God, thank you for the invitation that Jesus extends to me. Create in me a genuine humility as I dine at his table. Amen.*

## **TUESDAY: LUKE 14.12-23 (ESV)**

- Jesus often said that he who humbles himself will be exalted. A popular quote from Rick Warren says this of humility– *Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. Humility is thinking more of others. (Purpose Driven Life)* We will find more joy and meaning in our lives when we are thinking of others before ourselves. No one lived that out more purely than Jesus did. The Son of God humbled himself even to the point of death on a cross. ([Philippians 2.8](#)) As you reflect on the sacrifice that Christ made for you, consider how you might become a living sacrifice for those around you.
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- **Prayer Prompt:** *And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. 17 And they all ate and were satisfied. (Luke 9.16-17 ESV)*
- *Jesus, you lived a life of perfect humility. Because of the way you lived, died, and rose again, I can have life. Thank you for putting my salvation ahead of your own life. Amen.*

**WEDNESDAY: LUKE 14.12-23 (ESV)**

- The poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind were the folks who came to mind when considering who was *not* invited to the feast. Jesus said, *invite them!* Who comes to mind when you consider who might not already be invited to various aspects of your life, maybe even your holiday gatherings?

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- **Prayer Prompt:** *And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. (Luke 19.5-6 ESV)*
- *God, thank you for seeing me like Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree. You invite yourself into my life because you have given me life and want me to fully live it. May I receive you joyfully today! Amen.*

**THURSDAY: LUKE 14.12-23 (ESV)**

- Our world seems to be built on networking. We make connections and expand our world by learning from one another. We learn who can help us when we have a financial question or a plumbing issue. Jesus isn't implying that we stop that good practice, instead he invites us to widen our reach, being aware and very intentional about our motives. Do not only invest in relationships that serve your needs and promise you a return. Invite those who seem to offer you nothing. You have everything to gain at the resurrection. Consider the people that you invite into relationship, how might you need to expand your invite list?

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- **Prayer Prompt:** *And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” 31 And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.” (Luke 5.30-32 ESV)*
- *Jesus, You broke down all kinds of assumptions as to who is invited into the Kingdom of God. It's the only reason I've been invited. You made a space for me even though I could offer nothing in return. May I live my life for you. Amen.*

**FRIDAY: LUKE 14.12-23 (ESV)**

- Jesus told a parable of a large banquet with empty seats. Those who were originally invited had places to go (a field I just bought), possessions to tend to (five yoke of oxen), and people to see (I just got married). None of these seem like unreasonable excuses, they represent real life responsibilities. But the party was already prepared, this was the moment to sit down and enjoy. I think we can all relate to declined invitations that we later regretted. The land and the oxen are still there, and married life should include a banquet every now and then! What excuses have kept you from responding to invitations from others? Invitations from God?

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- **Prayer Prompt:** *On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine— the best of meats and the finest of wines. he will swallow up death forever. (Isaiah 25.6)*
- *God, you lay before me the feast of a lifetime. I repent of the many times I have chosen lesser things. Today I claim my seat at the table! Amen.*

**SATURDAY: LUKE 14.12-23 (ESV)**

- I love how the master in Jesus' parable tells his servant to cast a wider net. It's not just that the food was getting cold, but that the master wanted others to be fed. God wants us to get off the road and come to the table. God wants us to taste the Kingdom banquet that awaits us. Who will you compel to join you at the table?

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- **Prayer Prompt:** *The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. (Isaiah 25.8)*
- *God, restore my heart as I fix my gaze on you at the great banquet table. For you have swallowed up death forever! Amen.*

## GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group (or by yourself) take a moment to reflect on this instruction in 1 Thessalonians. Then, with gratitude, express what has you rejoicing right now. Where are you seeking God's intervention or guidance?

*"Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for [us] in Christ Jesus. Don't suppress the Spirit. Don't brush off Spirit-inspired messages." 1 Thessalonians 5.16-20, CEB*

- *Things I'm rejoicing in today:*
  
- *Places and situations where I'm seeking God's intervention and guidance:*
  
- *In each of those situations, I'm thanking God:*