



Introduction:

1. The setting is Jesus having breakfast with some prominent Pharisees.
2. One Pharisee showed his false confidence in seeing himself saved and in heaven. Jesus in essence was saying, "How do you even know you will enter the kingdom of heaven?"

Breaking Down The Parable:

I. The "Great Banquet" (vs. 16)

- Jesus is comparing salvation to a joyous, great feast.
- The table is spread for everyone with all we need: *reconciliation, forgiveness, peace, joy, and hope.*

II. The Invitation (vs. 17) – "Come"

- He sends out His servants with the "GOOD NEWS"!
- "Everything is now ready." Salvation is so simple.
- The 3 Excuses:
 1. "**I bought a field, and I have to go see it!**" (vs. 18) – Business comes first!
A person's business, profession, and activities can consume all of life. Ambitions.
 2. "**I just bought 5 yoke of oxen and I have to try them out.**" (vs. 19) – A person who lives by their emotions and whose main passion is whatever is "new".
Controlled by novelty! Material things are most important.
 3. "**I just got married, so I can't come.**" (vs. 20) – People putting other relationships before God. Why didn't he just bring his wife? Who is your first love?
 - Have you received Jesus' gift of salvation? What's your excuse?
 - Are you living and functioning in God's kingdom? What's your excuse?

III. The Consequences (vs. 23 & 24)

- God won't always be patient!
- I Corinthians 15:52 – "... *in the twinkling of an eye* ..."
- There is still room in God's house. (vs. 21 – *streets and alleys, the poor, crippled, blind and lame.*)
- Will you be at the Great Banquet?
- Will you be His servant now?