

RSVP

SPECIAL INVITATIONS

The Story of the Feast Invitations



Text: Luke 14:12-14

¹² Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just." (New King James Version)

Introduction: Have you ever sent out invitations? Graduation? Wedding? Baby Shower? Retirement party? Special Events? Jesus wants us to think about the people we invite into our homes. He challenges both our hospitality and our motives. Do we invite people that we know will return the favor? What would happen if we invited people we knew could not repay us? What if we gave without thought of reward and with an open hand and heart? Let's study

Discussion:

I. GIVING GENEROUSLY WITHOUT REWARD

- A. Giving generously has always been a part of God's plan (**Deuteronomy 15:10-11**).
- B. Giving generously does not mean holding onto what we have, but opening our hand to those in need (**II Corinthians 9:1-15**).
- C. Giving generously to others is the same as giving to the Lord (**Matthew 25:35-44**).
- D. Giving generously to others will be rewarded, though that should not be our motivation in giving (**Luke 6:38**).
- E. Giving generously includes expecting nothing in return (**Luke 14:14**).

II. GIVING WITH AN OPEN HAND & OPEN HEART

- A. Giving with an open hand and an open heart has always been a part of God's plan (**Leviticus 19:10, 33; 23:22; 25:35-38; Deuteronomy 24:14, 19-21**).
- B. Giving with an open hand and an open heart starts with the right attitude (**II Corinthians 8:1-5**).
- C. Giving with an open hand and an open heart includes helping those who poor (**Matthew 26:11**).
- D. Giving with an open hand and an open heart includes helping those who are the least of the kingdom (**Matthew 25:35-44**).
- E. Giving with an open hand and an open heart includes helping the widows and the orphans (**James 1:27**).

Conclusion: Only worldly people give to those who will give back. Only worldly people help others in an effort to help themselves. I want to issue you a challenge to give to someone this week that cannot repay you. Help someone who cannot help you. You can make a difference!