

The Parable of the Great Feast

Name: _____

God longs to be in a relationship with his children. We are given the gift of freedom so we can sincerely and intentionally choose to be with God. We use this gift of freedom correctly when we make a choice to do God's will. Obeying God leads to lasting happiness and a greater friendship with others. Choosing to be with God often requires the sacrifice of worldly possessions or activities that give us only temporary happiness.

In Luke 14, Jesus tells the Parable of the Great Feast. Read the parable below. Then answer the questions.

Lk 14:15-24

14 ¹⁵When one of those who sat at table with him heard this, he said to him, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!" ¹⁶But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; ¹⁷and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' ¹⁸But 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.' ¹⁹And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; please, have me excused.' ²⁰And another said, 'I have

married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' ²¹So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' ²²And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' ²³And 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. ²⁴For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

1. In this parable, what do you think the great feast represents?

Answers may vary.

At first, the servant was sent out to tell invited guests that the banquet was ready. Three guests asked to be excused.

2. What was each person's reason for not attending the feast?

Tending fields, examining oxen, and marriage.

3. Who is brought to the feast instead?

The poor and maimed, the blind and lame, and those out on the highways and hedges.

In the *Lectio divina* this week, we meditated on the story of the rich young man. After the young man “went away sad,” Jesus said to his disciples, “How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” (Mk 10:23).

4. **What do the Parable of the Great Feast and the story of the rich young man tell us about the effects that worldly possessions can have on us?**

Answers may include attachment to worldly possessions can keep us from following Jesus and that we can value the temporary happiness of worldly things over the eternal happiness of life with God.

5. **What worldly attachments do you need to let go of to be free to join the Great Feast?**

Answers may vary.

Technology and Freedom

Name: _____

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The rich young man could not let go of his possessions to follow Christ. Like that young man, we cling to people, objects, or events that make it difficult to be disciples of Christ. One common example is technology. While technology can strengthen our faith, it often makes it more difficult to grow in our relationship with God.

1. **How might technology be used to strengthen our faith?**

Answers may vary.

2. **What are three ways technology can make it difficult to grow closer to God?**

Answers may vary.

3. **Does your own use of technology tend to draw you closer to God or farther away from him?**

Answers may vary.

4. **Explain your response to question 3.**

Answers may vary.

5. **Suppose you could instantly make one change in your technology habits. What change would most help you to better follow Jesus?**

Answers may vary.

6. Imagine Jesus appeared to you and said that to follow him, you must leave behind all unnecessary technology. **What would be difficult about this? How might a life without such things make you freer.**

Answers may vary.
