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### **Digging Deeper and Rising Higher . . .**

In what ways are the excuses given by the invited guests a show of disrespect? What does this say about the things they value in life? What were they risking?

How does the head of the household in the story demonstrate both humility and compassionate generosity? What do we learn from this?

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### **Some thoughts to take with you . . .**

We need to forget the imaginary Christ who has been ours too long and to rediscover the real Christ, the Christ of the prophets and the martyrs and the confessors, the Christ who is not only the lover of souls but also master, a monarch with demands to make in industry, in finance, in education, in the arts, in marriage, in the home; the Christ who is teacher of a social ideology which has eternal validity; the Christ who cries aloud with convincing force, "He who would save his life will lose it; only he who is willing to lose his life, can find it."

Bernard Iddings Bell

The only thing of our very own which we contribute to our salvation is the sin which makes it necessary.

William Temple

So long as we judge ourselves by human comparisons, there is plenty of room for self-satisfaction, and self-satisfaction kills faith, for faith is born of the sense of need. But when we compare ourselves with Jesus Christ, and through Him, with God, we are humbled to the dust, and then faith is born, for there is nothing left to do but to trust to the mercy of God.

William Barclay

By afflictions, God is spoiling us [i.e., taking away from us] of what otherwise might have spoiled us. When he makes the world too hot for us to hold, we let it go.

John Powell

The sovereign God wants to be loved for Himself and honored for Himself, but that is only part of what He wants. The other part is that He wants us to know that when we have Him we have everything--we have all the rest.

A. W. Tozer

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## ***Living Beyond Ourselves*** **The Grand Invitation** Luke 14:15-25

**Introduction:** What are the real dangers of pride? Are the negative consequences of arrogance limited to this life? or can our faulty assumptions about ourselves keep us from finding a place at God's table for all eternity? Jesus, the master story-teller, gives the answer in the parable of The Grand Invitation.

### **The Story**

The banquet

The excuses

The invitation extended

The haunting conclusion

Luke 14:15-24

### **The Meaning in Jesus' Day**

God's people Israel

God's Servant Jesus

God's grace to the world

### **Jesus' Meaning for Us Today**

The invitation still stands

The obstacles are still the same

The danger is still as real

The celebration is still eternal

### **Applying God's Truth to Our Lives ...**

*So ... what do we do with this?*

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**The Grand Invitation**

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# KIDS NOTES

## The Grand Invitation

### The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. Jesus told a story about:

- A. a big carnival.
- B. a big banquet.
- C. a big wedding.
- D. a big game.

2. In the story, those who were first invited:

- A. all came with great joy.
- B. all made lame excuses for not coming.
- C. all decided to come at the last minute.
- D. b and c above.

3. Jesus' story taught that the Gospel:

- A. would be taken to the Gentile world.
- B. was especially loved by the poor.
- C. was God's invitation to eternal life.
- D. all of the above

**For Family Discussion:** How did those first invited to the banquet allow their self-centeredness to deprive them of a great celebration? What does this teach you?

### Space to Doodle

### Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

BANQUET _____	TOTAL: _____
HOST _____	_____
EXCUSE _____	_____
CHRIST _____	_____
PRIDE _____	_____
TABLE _____	_____

### Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

BANQUET HOST EXCUSES LAME CHRIST JESUS PRIDE HEART  
 SOFT STUBBORN TABLE MASTER DINE HEAVEN GLORY OXEN  
 LAND PROVE ESCHATOLOGICAL MASTER INVITE BRING LEAD  
 COMPEL HIGHWAYS STREETS LANES HEDGES ANGELS WIN

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E S C H Q P F O X T S T T E U G D
G S E H E A R T C Z T S D A J B K
L B C S M A S T E R U O L Y B E I
O V G H U J V E B L B H P E D L T
R I O N A C V E B A B R F I G S E
Y N X Q C T X N N Z O V R E I N L
F V E C Y U O E K V R P R R D A A
Z I N W N I C L E M N H H J N Z C
S T W L E O M V O H I C M D A E L
T E M M M P D V S G T E U Q N A B
E N A P V M R I H E I N W G S V X
E L E K C E J W N S N C I K U B U
R L S O F T A S B E G A A W S B P
T K F C U Y S E G D E H L L E C W
S Q H U S G N I R B J F G W J O W
  
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