



STUDY GUIDE

AHA MOMENTS 06.23.2019

[start with prayer]

Missions Prayer Focus this week:
Szabolc and Krisztina Kelemen—Ukrainian Church Planters

[set up]

Share about one of the most lavish or enjoyable banquets/receptions you have ever been to. What made it special?

[digging deeper]

This last weekend we looked at the parable Jesus told of the Great Banquet. Review the Parable and it's context by Reading Luke 14:1-24.

- Who was the audience Jesus targeted with His parable?
- What was the main point Jesus was trying to get across?
- What do we learn about God in this parable?
- What do we learn about those who see themselves as self-righteous and worthy?
- What do we learn about those who see themselves as grateful and unworthy?
- What do you learn about yourself when you consider these verses?

What is the banquet Jesus is referring to here? (See Isaiah 25:6-8 and Revelation 19:6-9.) What do you feel and think about when you reflect on the coming marriage supper of the Lamb that all believers will participate in?

In His parable, Jesus points out the deep pride, self-sufficiency, and self-righteousness of the Pharisees that would prevent them from being at this future glorious gathering of God's people in eternity, even though they assumed they would be there because they thought they earned it. This is demonstrated by the offensively shallow excuses given to not attend the banquet. Although not about land and oxen, what are some of the excuses people use today that reveal a general disinterest in God and a relationship with Christ?

Jesus uses the contrast of those who were originally invited to the banquet with the needy in the streets and roads. Besides a general understanding of this referring to Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles believing in Jesus, it contrasts those who see themselves as worthy of heaven because they earned it and those who do not see themselves as worthy and could never repay God for His great invitation.

Is there any deep pride, self-righteousness, or self-sufficiency that wants to rise up in you, that actually may make you more like the Pharisees than you want to admit? Ask the Lord to search you and expose that so that you can confess it and ask for His help to overcome it.

(over)

How can you relate to those in the parable who see themselves as bankrupt, needy, poor, unworthy, and grateful to be invited to the banquet? Ask the Lord to search you and help you see how needy you are of Him and His grace and to renew your gratitude for His free gift of forgiveness and heaven.

[living it out]

What's one action step or application that God has put on your heart from this lesson? What's your next step to make that intention in your heart a reality?

[praying it up]

Close your time in prayer.

Select one of the passages from the parable of the Great Banquet in Luke 14 that was compelling, convicting, or affirming and pray it back during this time.

Ask the Lord to help you avoid the heart of the Pharisees.

Ask the Lord to help you embrace the heart of the poor and needy in the parable.

Ask the Lord to help you imitate the faithfulness of the servant who faithfully let others know of the banquet invitation.

Share and pray over each other's action step plans.