

## "The Great Feast"

by Rev. John C. Tittle

### Scripture Reading: Luke 14: 15-24 NRSV

<sup>15</sup> One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to Jesus, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" <sup>16</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. <sup>17</sup> At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' <sup>18</sup> But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' <sup>19</sup> Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' <sup>20</sup> Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' <sup>21</sup> So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' <sup>22</sup> And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' <sup>23</sup> Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. <sup>24</sup> For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

### Discussion Questions:

1. What jumped out at you about this passage?
2. What's the best party you've ever been to?
3. Looking back, was there ever a party or an event that you didn't go to that you wish you attended?
4. What do you think the great feast represents in Jesus' story?
5. What do you think makes for being a good host? A good guest?
6. According to this passage, what is Jesus' definition of a good host? A good guest?
7. What do you think of the guests' excuses for not attending the big party? What are some excuses we have today for not responding to God's invitation to our lives?
8. What do you think of this statement: *The gist of the story is this: entanglement with persons and things can in effect be a refusal of God's invitation to participate in the life of faith.*
9. Who are the additional people that are invited after the initial people didn't show up?
10. Why is it important to God to have his house and table filled? What are some ways that we hold back others from being included in the life of God?