

The Great Banquet



The Jews were God's chosen people and believed the Messiah would finally establish the Kingdom of Israel, where there would be lasting peace. They visualised it as a great banquet.

One day while Jesus was at the table with them, a pious Jew remarked about the happiness of a man who gets to be a part of the feast in the Kingdom of God. Jesus responded by narrating a parable about a wealthy man preparing for a great banquet.

The man told his servants to invite the town's rich who were part of his circle of friends. But they began to make excuses. One of them said he needed to go and see the field he had recently purchased. Another said he had to examine the oxen



he had bought a few days ago, while another gave the excuse of being newly married with added responsibilities.

When the host heard the excuses, the wealthy man got angry and ordered his servants to go to the streets and invite the poor of the town. Let the blind and the lame be my special guests, he said.

Jesus meant to illustrate both the mercy and wrath of God, warning the pious Jew and others like him that their attitude and behavior could lead to a missed opportunity. Like the host in the story, God invites the chosen ones to share in His kingdom through Jesus. But if they refuse to accept the Son, they may never get another chance to be part of the Father's kingdom.

The parable calls us to check if we give God's invitation first place in our lives or whether our daily cares and worries tend to take more importance.



Word of God

Luke 14: 18 – 20

But they all began, one after another, to make excuses. The first one told the servant, 'I have bought a field and must go and look at it; please accept my apologies.' Another one said, 'I have bought five pairs of oxen and am on my way to try them out; please accept my apologies.'

Another one said, 'I have just gotten married, and for that reason I cannot come.'

Insight



The Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount or Mount Mary Church at Bandra in Mumbai is a major Marian devotion centre in India. Millions of Christians and non-Christians attend the feast of Mother Mary, celebrated on the first Sunday after September 8, and the weeklong Bandra Fair that follows. Although the church structure is over 100 years old, the history of the pilgrim centre dates back to the 16th century.



