**Everyday Stories of Jesus – Lk. 14:23**

**Focal Truth: Jesus invites all to fellowship with Him & refuses all who reject His invitation for fellowship**

1. **Jesus rewards those who invite the uninvited to their fellowships 14:14**

*When you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous –* ***the reception = fellowship with others***

1. Believers are to include the least in their fellowships

**Those who can’t repay you**

**Foster children can’t repay you! the poor can’t repay you! the helpless can’t repay you! The stranger can’t repay you!**

Deut.16:14 – 15 – Feast of booths – *you shall rejoice in your feast, your son and your daughter, you make and females servants and Levite and stranger & orphans and the widow who are in your towns –* ***law requires including the least in the feast***

1. Believers will be rewarded for their Christlike deeds in heaven

Lk. 6:35 – *love your enemies, and do good and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great and you will be sons of the Most High*

1 Cor. 3:8 - *no he who plants and he who waters are one, but each will receive his own reward according to his labor*

1 Cor. 3:13 -14 – *each man’s work will become evident, for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet as through fire*

1. **Jesus invites everyone to enjoy fellowship with Him on earth & in heaven 14:15**

*When one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!*

1. The marriage supper of the Lamb is the picture of eternal fellowship with Jesus

Rev. 19:7 – 9 – *let us rejoice and be glad and give glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, Write, blessed are those who invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb!*

1. Jesus invited everyone to follow him

Lk. 9:23 – 24 - *if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but he who loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it*

Lk. 14:26 – 27 – *if anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple…You cannot be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions*

1. The Lords Supper – earthly reminder of eternal fellowship with Jesus

Lk. 22:14 -18 – *when the hour had come, He reclined at the table and the apostles with Him. He said to them, I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. When he had taken a cup and given thanks he said, take this and share it among yourselves, for I will not drink of the fruit of the vine form now on until the kingdom of God comes*

1. **Jesus refuses to have fellowship with those who reject His invitation for fellowship**

*For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner*

1. Those who refuse the invitation to believe in Jesus make all kinds of excuses 14:18 -20

I have bought land I need to go look at it – please consider me excused

I have bought oxen I am going to try them out – please consider me excused

I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come

1. Those who refuse the invitation to believe in Jesus will be refused eternal fellowship with Him

Lk. 13:22 – **Lord are there just a few who are being saved?**

13:24 – 30strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you will seek to enter and will not be able. Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying Lord, open up to us! Then He will answer I do not know where you are from. You will say, we ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets, I will say, I do not know where you are from, depart from me all you evil doers.

In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you, yourselves are being thrown out.

They will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table of the kingdom of God. Some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. Come to Jesus for eternal life - Come everything is now ready!
2. Those who are invited & accept the invitation to believe in Jesus are the chosen

Matt. 22:14 - Many are called – invited, but few are chosen or accept the invitation

1. Believers must invite – the uninvited to come to Jesus and live!
2. Don’t refuse the invitation to life in Jesus Christ!

**For I tell you, none of these men who were invited shall taste of my dinner**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**