

## ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** ***International Bible Lessons***

**Luke 14:15-24**  
**Sunday, July 29, 2018**  
**L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.**

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

### **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further**

#### **1. What kind of people will eat the messianic banquet in the kingdom of God?**

Those who accept Jesus’ invitation to believe in and follow Him.

## **2. What seemed of most importance to those who made excuses when they were called to come to the banquet? What did that communicate to the host?**

Their worldly possessions and worldly relationships were of more importance to them than their host: more important than God. They themselves and fulfilling their worldly desires were of most importance to them: they felt they were more important than God. They communicated to the host that he was not very important to them, and they made a field or an ox or a person they could have taken to the feast with them more important than the host, for they made frivolous excuses to do things that could have been postponed to a later time.

## **3. What kind of people went to the banquet and what does that mean to you?**

Those who were the most needy, the type of people Jesus fed and healed during His ministry accepted the invitation of the host. Knowing their needs and their hearts, the host and his servant did all that the most needy needed done to help them come to the feast.

## **4. What kind of excuses do people give today for not spending time with Jesus Christ and those who love God and Christ?**

Some may make the excuse that they have more important things to do and more important people to spend their

time with than seeking to do what God would want them to do or being with those who put their focus on God first and foremost when they love, worship, and serve God. Some may make the excuse that God and His people are not very exciting or fun to be with, possibly even boring to be with. Some may make the excuse that they do not want God or others to judge their behavior, even though few others (in addition to God) may even know about their bad behavior. Some may just feel guilty around true believers and not want to be with them. All such excuses are frivolous to God and should be to us.

**5. Why will some people be happier existing away from God and Christ after they die rather than live with God and those who love Him after they die, even while they are suffering torment because they have rejected God's rule and the Kingdom of God?**

They would not be happy praising God and spending time praising God with those who love God and love to praise God. They would rather be where God does not interfere with their existence and their desire to keep their focus primarily upon themselves. As they focus more and more upon themselves, they will be less and less happy. Because of their self-centeredness, they would be even more unhappy and suffer more if God made them remain in the presence of our holy God and His people forever. Because God loves all people, He will not force those who do not love Him be in His presence.

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