

Always Give Your Best

International Bible Lesson

Luke 14:7-24

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“But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind” (Luke 14:13—KJV).

“But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind” (Luke 14:13—NRSV).

Jesus warned people not to host dinners and parties only for their own selfish benefit. Self-centered people may think that at the very least one of their guests will invite them to a party in return. Or they may think their guests will help them with a business or professional deal that will make them more money or advance their career. Jesus never said we should never host dinner parties for our friends. He did say that those who follow Him must also seek ways to help the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. More than only giving what we can spare to a charity, Jesus told those who wanted to be His disciples to spend time with the needy if possible. Our giving a banquet requires spending our time and giving our best to develop or maintain a good relationship with others. Jesus told some parables to encourage His followers to give the best of themselves to help those most needy around them. By giving the best of themselves and their time, they could develop meaningful relationships with the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Long lasting and meaningful help can be given to those in need when we use our gifts and time to help the poor find ways to overcome their poverty (perhaps finding them work), and to help the crippled, the lame, and the blind receive the healing, the support, and the tools they need to meet their needs day by day. Living according to Jesus’ priorities will bless the most people, and Jesus’ followers “will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous” (Luke 14:14).

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Thinking Further

1. Why does Jesus say you should take the lowest seat at a feast?
2. What kind of person does Jesus say will be humbled?
3. How happy do you think a person is who only does things for those who will repay or reward him? How happy do you think a person is who only serves God because he wants God to reward him?
4. What kind of excuses do people give today for not spending time with Jesus Christ and those who love God and Christ?
5. Why will some people be happier existing away from God and Christ after they die than being with God and those who love Him, even while they are suffering torment because they have rejected God’s rule and the Kingdom of God?