



The Dinner Party | Ethan Matott | 4.27-28

### Weekly Study

## SHARE

Welcome! What another amazing weekend at church this was! This weekend, we had another stand-alone message titled "The Dinner Party." Our pastor, Ethan, preached a message focused on how Jesus loves to party! Yes, you heard me right, Jesus loves to party. It may not be the type of party you're thinking of. He did love gathering with people and His type of party is focused on celebration, connecting with people, having fun, and loving people, especially those who are labeled "Least, Lost, and Lonely." The mission behind this church is that we are all about making heaven more crowded, and that's what this sermon was all about. Let's jump in!

- When you think of the scenario of having a party, what does that scenario look like to you?**

## GROW

### Read Luke 14:16-20

After reading this, perhaps many of us don't fully understand why someone would make an excuse like, "I have just bought a field, and I must go see it." Hopefully, if you've just bought a field, you've already looked at it to see its condition. Ultimately, I bet many of us can relate to just having some pretty terrible excuses when it comes to committing to things in general.

In this passage, Jesus is describing this story, calling out the Pharisees in the audience for their religious mindset that they are actually missing the whole point. They missed out on the call from God to "Love your neighbor" as they are making some pretty terrible excuses to prioritize very worldly things over attending the greatest party ever.

- What are your initial thoughts after reading that passage in Luke?**

- Can you think of modern-day equivalents to the excuses given in the passage?
- Have you ever found yourself making excuses like the ones described in the passage when it comes to your faith?

## MOVE

### Read Mark 12:30-31

Sometimes, it's so easy to miss the bigger picture. We can easily focus on our needs, wants, and desires, getting caught up in the more comfortable or easy things. It's not always easy to share your faith or go out of your way to help a friend or a neighbor. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be the light of the world, to a very dark world that needs a lot of love and a whole lot of Jesus.

C.S. Lewis once said, "Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in'; aim at earth and you will get neither." More often than not, it's easier to do the comfortable, worldly thing, "aiming at earth," but it always and will always leave us emptier than before. When we begin to love like Jesus, sharing our faith with others, being a light to this world, we begin to see an abundance within our life come alive.

- How does CS Lewis's quote, "Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in,' aim at earth and you will get neither," resonate with you personally?
- In what ways can we actively strive to "aim at Heaven" in our daily lives and interactions with others?
- What are some challenges you face in striving to love like Jesus in your everyday interactions?

### Read Luke 14:21-23

In verse 21, the owner of the house instructs the servant to go into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame. Ethan emphasized that Red Rocks will always be a church that loves, prioritizes, and welcomes these people into our space, and they will always be a part of the family. The servant invites the Least, Lost, and Lonely. In this culture that Jesus is speaking to, if you were disabled, in prison, or on the outskirts of society in any way, you were considered the least.

In the story that Jesus is telling us, God is the owner of the house, and the servant is Jesus. Jesus came to change the direction that the Pharisees were leading God's people in. The Pharisees seemed to make getting to heaven an exclusive thing, but God says, "No, my house has many

rooms, and I want it to be full!"

- What would you say the significance is of the servant inviting the "poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame" in Luke 14:21?**
- How does the concept of inviting the "Least, Lost, and Lonely" into our spaces resonate with your own personal life?**
- How may we relate to the attitude of the Pharisees in contrast with the message Jesus conveys about the inclusivity of God's kingdom?**

We see in verse 22 that the servant comes back and says, **"there is still room,"** so the master tells the servant to go out everywhere so that his house will be full! That's God saying there are more lost people in this world, and He wants His house to be full! How many of us have family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, maybe even just strangers and people we meet, whom we could be sharing the love of Jesus with—not in some cringy way, but in a way that shows what He has done in our lives and how it has transformed us. That's when we begin to invite heaven to be on earth. That when we begin walking around being a light to a very dark world that desperately needs it.

- Reflecting on the servant's report that "there is still room", what does this say about God's desire for his house to be full and what does this mean for us as individuals?**
- What does it look like to invite "heaven to be on earth" through our daily lives? What does this look like practically, and how can we cultivate a mindset of bringing God's kingdom into our surroundings?**
- What would it look like to get a little uncomfortable and to be excited to go up to someone you don't know at work, the park, church and make them feel seen and loved?**
- How can we as individuals and a group challenge ourselves to change our normal habits and routines in order to be a light to this world?**

## **P R A Y**

Share and write down prayer requests in the group to be praying for this week. Have 3 people close in prayer.