

The Parable of the Great Banquet

Luke 14:15 – 24

Background

- Hospitality was taken very seriously at the time of Jesus

For a banquet: -

- **Two invitations were issued**, The quantity of food was based upon acceptance of the first invitation

- **The second invitation** was issued when the food had all been prepared and the banquet was ready
- Those invited insultingly reneged on their previous agreement – their excuses were weak

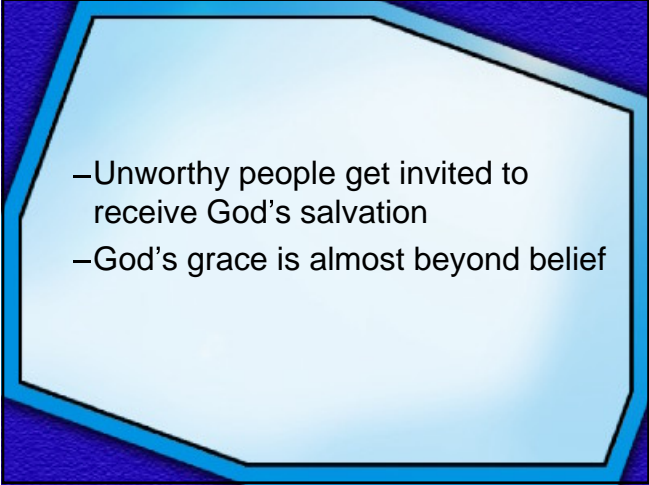
- Two new groups were invited because the banquet was going ahead
- Those who had nothing to offer the host had to be convinced that they were welcome

Meaning of the parable

- God's offer of salvation is often referred to as a banquet
- The religious leaders rejected God's offer
- He then invites those who cannot believe they are invited – they accept

Lessons from the parable

- Through Jesus, God offers the gift of salvation
- We can either accept or reject the invitation
- Salvation cannot be accept from a distance – we have to come

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- Unworthy people get invited to receive God's salvation
 - God's grace is almost beyond belief