**FULFILL YOUR MISSION**

**Luke 14:15-24**

* **The man preparing the Great Feast in our parable represents God**
* **The Great Banquet represents Heaven & spending eternity with Jesus.**
* Jesus - *“In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?” (*John 14:2)
* *“And he said to him, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.’” (*Luke 23:43)
* *“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.* *5 Then the one seated on the throne said, ‘Look, I am making everything new.’”* (Revelation 21:4-5a)

***Jesus’ “Great Banquet” Parable Shows Us That:***

**GOD HAS INVITED EVERYONE INTO HEAVEN**

* *“Then he told him, ‘A man was giving a large banquet and invited many.’”* (Luke 14:16)
* **There are many different types of people in the world - and the Lord wants every person to spend eternity with Him in Heaven.**
* *“This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* (1 Timothy 2:4)
* *“The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.”* (2 Peter 3:9)
* *“For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”* (John 3:16-17)
* **While God has invited everyone to His “banquet” in Heaven, not everyone will accept the invitation.**
* Jesus – *“Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* (John 3:3)
* **Who do I know that’s far from God that really needs His Salvation?**

***Jesus’ “Great Banquet” Parable Shows Us That:***

**PEOPLE HAVE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS**

* *“But without exception they all began to make excuses. The first one said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. I ask you to excuse me.’ 19 Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m going to try them out. I ask you to excuse me.’ 20 And another said, ‘I just got married, and therefore I’m unable to come.’”* (Luke 14:18-20)
* **Many people use excuses regarding material things, their vocation or their relationships to reject the Lord’s invitation to salvation.**
* **Question: What are some excuses that people around you use for not surrendering their lives to the Lord?**
* **Excuses are simply alibis that keep people from doing what they know they need to do.**

***Jesus’ Great Banquet Parable Shows Us That:***

**GOD HAS EXPECTATIONS FOR US REGARDING OTHERS**

***Jesus Reminds Us That We Need To:***

* **CARE ABOUT HURTING PEOPLE**
	+ *“Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in here the poor, maimed, blind, and lame.”* (Luke 14:21)
* **COMPEL PEOPLE TO COME TO THE LORD**
	+ *“Then the master told the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges and make them come in, so that my house may be filled.’”* (Luke 14:23)
	+ **As followers of Christ, it is our responsibility to tell people about Jesus and invite them into His Kingdom!**
	+ **Lots of Christians ‘make excuses’ as to why they never share their faith with others.**
* **At Renew Church, we believe it is our responsibility to GO and tell EVERYONE about the Good News of Jesus Christ.**
* Jesus - *“Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every person.” (*Mark 16:15)
* **We must tell Anyone and Everyone about who Jesus is and what He can do for them!**
* ***“****The man from whom the demons had departed begged him earnestly to be with him. But [Jesus] sent him away and said, 39 ‘Go back to your home, and tell all that God has done for you.’ And off he went, proclaiming throughout the town how much Jesus had done for him.”* (Luke 8:38-39)
* **We are all to be “Missionaries” right where we are.**
* Jesus - *“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.”* (John 20:21)
* *“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ’s behalf, ‘Be reconciled to God.’”* (2 Corinthians 5:20)
* “I have now disposed of all my property to my family. **There is one thing more I wish I could give them and that is faith in Jesus**. If they had that and I had not given them one shilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, and I had given them the whole world, they would be poor indeed.” – Oswald Chambers
* **Who is God telling me to share Jesus with?**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**UNDERSTANDING**

1. Who does the man giving the large banquet represent, and what does the large banquet represent?
* What does Luke 14:15-24 say about God/Jesus?
* What does Luke 14:15-24 say about Christ followers?

**DIGGING DEEPER**

* Since God has invited everyone to Heaven, why will so many people not go to Heaven? (Reference John 3:3 and John 3:16-17)
* What are some of the excuses you have heard for why people won’t follow Jesus? How can you respond to those excuses?
* Knowing that there are hundreds of thousands of hurting and lost people in the Greater Baton Rouge area. How does this message impact you personally regarding your responsibility to share the gospel of Jesus with others?
* What did Jesus mean by “make them come in” in verse 23? What would that look like in your life as you fulfill your mission to reach the lost and hurting?

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?