

**Summer School –Week 4**

**Title – The Unsung Hero**

**Prayer**

**Purpose/Review**

**Our lesson this morning will be framed a little different than normal...**

**Normally I always like to present a lesson that will help us live our faith a little bit better**

**This morning's lesson will be a bit different**

**One of those lessons that cause us to look a little deeper into our walk with Jesus**

**SERMON TITLE – The Unsung Hero**

**QUESTION-**

**What is an unsung hero...?**

An unsung hero is a person who accomplishes great deeds or performs valuable, often challenging work without receiving proper recognition, praise, or attention for their contributions. These individuals operate quietly, sometimes behind the scenes, making a significant impact on their community or others' lives while expecting no fame or reward.

**EXAMPLE-**

**Irena Sendler:**

**Was a Polish social worker who rescued approximately 2,500 Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II, hiding their identities to save them from the Nazis.**

**So let us get into our lesson and find out who this unsung hero is...?**

## Reading

### Luke 14

23 And the master said to the slave, Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled.

## Doctrinal

**A very well-known verse... which begs several questions...**

Who is the master...?

And why is the slave sent out to the highways and along the hedges...?

Why did the master want his house filled...?

**Compel them to come in...**

**Compel** – to necessitate or require; as by force of circumstance: to demand

**Why does the master tell his slave not to take “no” for an answer...?**

### **NOTE-**

In order to find the answers to our questions

As we've done throughout this series

Let us look at our reading in context

**OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO Luke 14:15-24**

## **Let me offer the answer to the first question and a hint to discover the other answers**

The host or the master represents God... and the banquet is the Kingdom of God

## **There is something else I would like for you to try and discover**

There are 3 groups of characters within our story...

## **As we read see if you can identify all 3 groups...**

### **Luke 14**

15 When one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!"

16 But He said to him, "A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; 17 and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' 18 But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.' 19 Another one said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.' 20 Another one said, 'I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.' 21 And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' 22 And the slave said, 'Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' 23 And the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled. 24 For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.'"

The Host represents God who is offering an invitation...

The banquet represent the Kingdom of God

**QUESTION-**

**Why was the slave sent out to the highways and along the hedges...?**

The slave had already gone out into the city...

Now he was instructed to go out to the country...

Every small community and village...

**QUESTION-**

**Why did the master want his house filled...?**

God wants all to be saved...

**QUESTION-**

**Who are the 3 groups in our story...?**

**ANSWER-**

The invited guests

The poor and crippled and blind and lame

The slave

**And these will be our three bullet points...??????**

**NOTE-**

Let us look at each group independently

And see how each group might represent us

What is the lesson that we should glean from each of these groups

**Application**

## So let us look at group number one... The invited guests

### Gleanings from the Great Banquet

#### 1) The Invited Guests

#### Luke 14

16 But He said to him, A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many.

#### **NOTE-**

A Man... his Master... The head of the household  
As mentioned earlier... these titles represent God

Representing God offering an invitation to His Great Banquet  
And the dinner or banquet is the Kingdom of Heaven

#### **Within this story who are the invited guests?**

The Jewish people

#### **NOTE-**

A couple of important points to expand upon  
So that we can fully understand what Jesus is saying

#### **The first point to make is about the Jewish customs of that time...**

When one was going to have a great event such as a large banquet or wedding  
The custom of the day was that the invited guests would have received 2 invitations

The first invitation would have been the announcement  
I am going to have a great celebration and you are invited to attend

Today it's similar to sending out an announcement for a wedding or graduation  
Such announcements always have RSVP... please respond

However... unlike our announcements today  
The first invitation would not have included a date

It took great effort to prepare for such an event  
And when the host was ready... they would send out a second invitation

**Luke 14**

17 and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, Come; for everything is ready now.

*And how did the invited guests respond...?*

**Luke 14**

18 But they all alike began to make excuses.

**As one commentary states...**

When the master of the house heard these flimsy excuses, he was angry. The excuses for skipping the banquet are laughably bad.

No one buys land without seeing it first, and the same can be said for buying oxen. And what, exactly, would keep a newly married couple from attending a social event? All three excuses in the parable reveal insincerity on the part of those invited.

**NOTE-**

The insincerity on the part of those invited  
Hold on to the phrase for we will revisit it again

**NOTE-**

The invited guests represent the Jewish people  
They believed that their ticket to heaven was punched simply because they was a Jewish

## **NOTE-**

Remember the custom of sending out 2 invitations

The Jewish people had received the first invitation

We call it the Old Testament

**The writings of the Old Testament that pointed to Jesus... was the first invitation**

And when God the Father sent His Son... That was the second invitation

**And what did the Jewish leaders do with that invitation...They made excuses...**

### **Matthew 13**

55 Is not this the carpenter's son?

### **Luke 15**

2 Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, This man receives sinners and eats with them.

*And this leads us to the second bullet point...*

### **Gleanings from the Great Banquet**

1) The Invited Guests

**2) The Blind and Crippled**

### **Luke 14**

21... Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.

## **NOTE-**

This would have would have been considered blasphemous

The prevailing notion in ancient Middle Eastern cultures was that bodily ailments and defects, such as blindness and loss of hearing, as well as circumstantial ailments, such as poverty, were punishments for sin; the blind, together with cripples and lepers, were outcast by society and were prevented from entering towns, becoming paupers as a result...**1906 Jewish Encyclopedia**

*When Peter visited Cornelius, a Gentile, we read this...*

### **Acts 10**

28 And he said to them, You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.

*And this brings us to our final bullet point... the slave*

### **Gleanings from the Great Banquet**

- 1) The Invited Guests
- 2) The Blind and Crippled
- 3) The Slave**

**The slave is our unsung hero...**

## **NOTE-**

Listen to the conversation between the slave and his master

Upon his return from delivering the second invitation to the invited guests

## **Luke 14**

21 And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave...



Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' 22 And the slave said, 'Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.'

### ***What you commanded has already been done...?***

Don't read through that too quickly... do you see what happened...?

When the servant realized that none of those first invited were going to attend on his way back to the master's home, he stopped along the way to invite othersto come to the feast. He knew how disappointed his master would be if the banquet hall was not full. Therefore, he kept knocking on doors and giving invitations. He didn't stop until it was time for the feast to begin... Stewardship Ministries

### **NOTE-**

The servant never questioned his master

He followed his commands without hesitation or complaints

Not only did he demonstrate unwavering obedience

In order to please his master he was proactive in seeking out guests

To ensure the master's wishes were fulfilled

When the master understood that the banquet hall still had room

He commanded the servant to go out into the highways and along the hedges

Go everywhere... not just the main cities... but to the villages too

Compel them to come in... so that my house will be filled

## **How does this story apply to us today...?**

The Jewish people were given the first invitation  
And they gladly accepted that invitation

But when the second invitation went out they began making excuses

And what were the results... The Masters House still had room for more...

Here we are sitting in the Masters House on this side of eternity...

Look around... is it full? Is there still room for more...?

**Do we make excuses for not coming to church whenever the doors are open...?**

**Are we as passionate about attending church on Sunday's and midweek bible study**

The same way we were when we first became a Christian...?

**Or have we come up with excuses...?**

*Jesus speaks to our hearts about our excuses...*

### **Revelation 2**

4... you have left your first love.

#### **NOTE-**

The Church in Ephesus was established by Paul and known for its strong faith  
Over time their excitement diminished and priorities changed

The call to remember and to return to their first love is a theme of the bible  
In His Word God calls us to remember the zeal that we had in our youth

**Psalm 51**

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation  
And sustain me with a willing spirit.

**The idea is that our joy was once present but over time has been diminished**

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit...

A true joy that can only be found in God's presence

**The servant stood in the presence of his master...**

He never questioned his master's request...

No... his actions echoed what we read in Isaiah

**Isaiah 6**

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?  
Then I said, Here am I. Send me!

**Let us lay aside every encumbrance that so easily entangles us...**

**And let us run the race that is set before us...**

**Let us go out onto the highways and along the hedges...**

**To fill God's house...**

Sign...?

**CLOSE**