



## Life Group Study Notes

### “Bethel’s Discipleship Path: Join in Outreach”

Sr. Ps. James Lowe - June 24, 2018

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What’s your favorite food to have at a large party?
- What’s the largest wedding you’ve ever attended?
- If you could host a family reunion anywhere regardless of cost, where would it be?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)

**Key Quote:** “Go and urge people to come to Jesus, so that God’s house will be full.”

Luke 14:12-24 NIV *Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”*

15 *When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ “ ‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’ ”*

**1. Send out the Gospel invitation.**

Jesus instructs us to invite people to God's great salvation banquet which will take place when Jesus returns to the earth. In that day all who will have turned to God and trusted in Jesus' atoning death will be raised from the dead and will enjoy a celebration prepared by God.

God has paid the ultimate cost to prepare for this celebration of eternal life by sending his Son to die on the cross, taking the punishment of death for our sins. Because of his sacrifice we can receive forgiveness and be reconciled to God. God adopts us into his family and promises to raise us from the dead when Jesus returns, giving us immortal, bodily life.

This news is so great, everyone should hear it and have the opportunity to respond. Everyone should receive God's invitation.

## **2. Expect some to reject the invitation.**

We are not responsible for how other people will respond to God's invitation. It's not our invitation; it's God's invitation. If people reject the invitation, they are ultimately rejecting God, not you. Everyone must decide for themselves. God has already told us that some will accept God's invitation and others will reject it.

We must not let the possibility of some rejecting God's invitation deter us from inviting everyone. We do not know who will accept or reject God's offer. Some who we might think would surely accept it, will not. Others who we may think would never accept it, will surprise us and become ardent followers of Jesus.

## **3. Obey your orders and go urge people to come.**

Jesus didn't suggest that we invite people on his behalf. He commanded us to do so. Since we ourselves are recipients of God's gracious salvation, we have every reason to be inspired to go and tell others. If we are not, it may be necessary to take time to reflect again on what God has done for us and what he has promised to do when Jesus returns.

Our orders are to go to all peoples with the message of the Gospel, not just those like ourselves. We may be more comfortable with some people because of the things we share in common with them. But Jesus wants us to invite people from different ethnicities, different socio-economic stations in life, different education levels, different ages, and different nationalities. He wants no one left out.

The bottom line is: Go and urge people to accept the Gospel and enter God's kingdom, so that God's house might be full. This is our duty and our privilege.

### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- Who are some people who you interact with, but have not yet talked to about Jesus?
- How should we try to effectively speak to people who are not interested in following Jesus?
- To whom is God calling you to go in order to bring the Gospel to them?

### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Thank God for the privilege of being invited to his salvation banquet.
- Ask God for guidance and empowerment to help you urge others to trust and follow Jesus.
- Ask God to reveal to you if he wants you to go on a missions trip.