

Sermon Title: "Response Required!"

Sermon Text: Luke 14:15-24

Pre-Sermon: This is to help you prepare for hearing from God's Word.

- Please take some time to pray that God would strengthen the preacher to speak accurately and you to listen eagerly to His Word.
- Read the passage out loud. What do you think it is about?
- Consider verse 15 and 24 in particular. What might this verse tell us about the purpose of this story Jesus tells?

Sermon Discussion Questions: This will help you think through what you heard.

- What was the question we said that we wanted to think about as we studied this passage?
- Why is this particular passage a place to look for an answer to that question?
- What are some reasons that is important for us to think about?
- How would the person reclining at the table have answered that question? What does he say that indicates that?
- Why do you think Jesus told a story in response to him?
- How does this story that Jesus told reveal a totally different way of thinking about who is going to be part of the kingdom of God?
- What objections would the Pharisees have had to this way of thinking about the kingdom of God? What were they missing?
- What is the warning of this passage?
- In what ways does Jesus' response reveal God's generosity?
- Why did the Pharisee assume he could be part of the kingdom of God apart from listening to Jesus?
- In our day we struggle with the exclusivity of Jesus. In Jesus' day the Pharisees struggled with the inclusivity of Jesus. What is at the root of both of these struggles?
- How did the message today exalt Jesus?

Sermon Outline: A sermon is much more than an outline, but perhaps this outline will help you follow the sermon.

1. The question
2. A wrong answer
3. Jesus' response
4. Why Jesus responds the way He does

Sermon Goal: This is a VERY short explanation of what this message is about and what I'm praying God will achieve through this message.

We are looking at the way Jesus spoke to someone who assumed that their response to him was not very important. I want to help us see how dependent we are on Jesus for salvation and be energized and strengthened to continue calling on people to listen to and submit to Him.

Sermon Flow: This is a basic summary that might help you understand what this sermon is doing and where it is going.

1. Introduction:
 - a. This message begins by introducing the question we are going to consider:
 - i. How much does the way a person responds to Jesus matter?
 1. I will explain what kind of question this is and then try to help you understand why it is an important question for us to think about.
 2. I will then show you from the text that Jesus is answering this question here.
2. Body:
 - a. We then will look at a wrong answer to this question.
 - i. I will show you from verse 15 that what this man says here is the wrong thing for him to say and reveals he is not taking Jesus seriously.
 - b. We then will consider the way Jesus responds to him in verses 16-24.
 - i. I will explain what Jesus is doing by telling this story.
 - ii. I then will walk you through the passage and help you feel the shocking nature of the story Jesus tells.
 - c. And finally we will take some time to think about why Jesus responds to him the way He does.
 - i. I want to convince you that the reason salvation is through Jesus alone is not because God is not generous or gracious.
 1. I'm going to take some time to help you see the way this story illustrates the generosity of God.
 - ii. Then I want to show you the actual reason it is difficult for us to appreciate the fact that salvation is through Jesus alone.
 1. I hope to demonstrate to you that the question we should be asking as we read this story is different than the one we would normally ask and is really key to understanding how the gospel works and why salvation has to be through Jesus alone.
3. Conclusion:

- a. I hope you will walk away from this message encouraged by the uniqueness of the gospel, the generosity of God, and excited to take a stand for Jesus and call on people to respond.

Application Questions: We can't just read these passages, study them. It's vital we respond.

- What should you believe as a result of this message?
- What about this message challenged the way you think?
- What should you want or do differently as a result of this message?
- What can you give thanks to God about as a result of what you heard?
- What should you be praying for?

Sermon Notes: This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.