

June 11 | Sunday

Upside Down: God's Kingdom is a party!

Read [Luke 14:12-24](#)



12 | Mon – What?! | Read [Matthew 22:1-6](#)

Everyone has been invited to the party but not everyone wants to come. In this story, a king prepared a wedding feast for his son. When his servants went to get those who had been invited, many did not want to come and some even became defiant, mistreating and killing the servants. Why do you think a person would consider God's invitation is a bad thing? Have you ever been on the receiving end of some hostility when trying to share God's good news?

13 | Tue – Dress for the party | Read [Matthew 22:7-14](#)

Jesus' story here is not about the harsh king (that is how people culturally expected a king to act when snubbed) but on the disrespectful guest who did not come properly dressed. In the ancient world, clothes exhibited a person's character. How well dressed are you? Are there areas of your life where you show up in the spiritual equivalent of ragged shorts and flip-flops? Remember Jesus has given you His robe of righteousness. How do you display it?

14 | Wed – Party etiquette | Read [Luke 14:7-14](#)

As you can see, seating was a big deal at wedding feasts, with specific places for important people. Jesus was not advocating an "aw, shucks" false modesty. He was calling us to set aside our obsession with rank and status. Jesus modeled and urged people to avoid selfishly pushing for their own recognition and to leave room for honoring others. It seems very counter-cultural but how could you practice this idea in your life today?

15 | Thu – Excuses, excuses | Read [Luke 14:15-20](#)

Who wouldn't want to go to a free banquet? Apparently a few people did not and the excuses they offered were pretty flimsy. Who buys a piece of property and *then* goes to look at it? And the oxen? That is like buying a car before even taking a test drive. Newlyweds back in the day got a year-long honeymoon with no work and nothing to do but hang out...lots of time for a banquet. But don't be judging them. Fast forward to the present. Has God ever invited you to feast on His Word or spend time in His presence but you were too busy?

16 | Fri – Socially acceptable...or not | Read [Luke 14:21-24](#)

God has opened up His kingdom to everyone because He wants a 'full house'. He is a good God who loves to bless people with good things, even those who seem undeserving. Against the established social protocol, homeless street people were invited in to enjoy this man's feast along with the acceptables. Do you sometimes to feel a little superior to people who appear to be less spiritual than you? What is the antidote for that?

17 | Sat – The party to end all parties | Read [Isaiah 25:6-9](#)

In the previous chapter, Isaiah describes God's final victory over all evil. Here he goes on to describe how the Sovereign Lord will "swallow up death forever" and "wipe away the tears from all faces". Then it is party time - a feast of gargantuan proportions - hosted by the Sovereign Lord Almighty. Has life been tough on you? Be assured, your trust in God has not gone unnoticed. Read these words slowly and soak up the hope they offer for your future. Will you someday proclaim to everyone the words in verse 9?