



The Word at Work

**‘...that my house
will be full.’**

Reading the Word

Key Scriptures: Luke 14:12-24

Key Points:

God’s desire is that his house is full:

- Full of people feasting on his fullness of life (Ps.36:8; John 10:10)
- Full of people being transformed by the feast
- Full of people that we have brought in – compelled by the love of Christ (2 Cor.5:14)

So beware that the truth of a radical remnant can be distorted into a satisfaction with being the faithful few and the self-justifying minority.

It is true that we want a community of disciples not just a crowd of the curious – but sometimes you start with a crowd and then call the disciples out of the crowd.

And one day Jesus is going to have a crowd (a great multitude) of disciples (Rev.7:9).

God throws his feast open to all

And we are to bring in:

- the *poor* – those who know they need God (Matt.5:3 NLT),
- *crippled* – those damaged and wounded by life’s crises,
- *lame* – those hindered by life’s challenges (Heb.12:12-13),
- and *blind* – those who’ve lost all hope, unable to see a way forward.

These are people who are not just ‘hospitalised’ by the church; they are transformed by the power of God – the weak become strong, the poor become rich.

- David turned a bunch of misfits into a mighty army (1 Sam.22:1-2).

If we are to do this then we must be clear about two key things:

- the need for spiritual *discernment* – see the heart not just the outward need.
- the call to radical *discipleship* – we are calling them to a cross as well as a feast.

We are called to go out and bring them in.

We have to go in order to grow

- to the highways (fast-lanes of life) and the hedges (the hidden places) - Luke 14:23.

Be careful that the excuse of those who refused to respond to the invite don’t become the same excuses that we refuse to respond to the call of the kingdom:

1. a field – material wealth: money
2. oxen – work
3. just married: family

Note how that which is given by God and is good can become a distraction to the kingdom call.

Doing the Word

To Discuss:

1. What are the many different ways in which we can go out to the highways and hedges?

To Do:

1. Go!

Trevor Lloyd 11th January 2009