

“Decline With Regret”

Luke 14:11-24

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / October 9, 2022

Luke 14:11-24 “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.’¹² He said also to the man who had invited Him, ‘When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid.’¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.’¹⁵ When one of those who reclined at table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, ‘Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!’¹⁶ But He said to him, ‘A man once gave a great banquet and invited many.’¹⁷ And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’¹⁹ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’²⁰ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’²¹ So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’²² And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’²³ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.’²⁴ For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. Declining Jesus’ many invitations will lead to deep regret!

Hebrews 10:26-31 “For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?³⁰ For we know Him who said, ‘Vengeance is Mine; I will repay.’ And again, ‘The Lord will judge His people.’³¹ **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**”

Isaiah 33:14 “The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling has seized the godless: ‘Who among us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?’”

Luke 12:5 “But I will warn you whom to fear: fear Him who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear Him!”

II. Don’t make excuses that lead you to decline Jesus’ many invitations!

A. When Jesus invites you, don’t let capital cause you to “decline with regret.”

Luke 14:19 “And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’”

Luke 9:59-60 “To another He said, ‘Follow Me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’ ⁶⁰ And Jesus said to him, ‘Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.’”

B. When Jesus invites you, don’t let comfort cause you to “decline with regret.”

Luke 14:18 “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to Him, ‘**I have bought a field**, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’”

Luke 9:57-58 “As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, ‘I will follow You wherever You go.’ ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’”

Comfort
Opposes
Ministry
Faith
Offers
Radical
Transformation

C. When Jesus invites you, don’t let companions cause you to “decline with regret.”

Luke 14:20 “And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’”

Luke 9:61-62 “Yet another said, ‘I will follow You, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.’ ⁶² Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’”

III. You need to know Jesus continues to welcome all those who accept His invitation!

Luke 14:21-24 “Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and **bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.**’ ²² And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ ²³ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and **compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.**’ ²⁴ For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. When have you declined an invitation and felt something other than regret?
2. Pastor Peter said “Disinterested kindness was a concept the Pharisees knew nothing about.” Do you show kindness to others without expectation of reciprocity? Was there ever a time when that was different for you?
3. Pastor Peter said “God will hold a grudge against those who consistently, repeatedly decline His invitations.” Read Hebrews 10:26-31 and explain how the writer of Hebrews shows that to be true.
4. Reread the acrostic for **C.O.M.F.O.R.T.** How have you seen that to be true in your own life?
5. Take a moment to pray for someone who has repeatedly declined Jesus’ invitation. Pray they might not see the day when they ultimately “decline with regret.”