**Week of July 29, 2018**

**Luke 14:15-24**

**The Parable of the Great Banquet**

15When 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.”

16Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. 17At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

18“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.’

19“Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’

20“Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’

21“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.’

22“‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’

23“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. 24I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

**Understanding of the Scripture**

In this week’s scripture Jesus gives a parable of a banquet. A parable is a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels. The background of this particular moment is interesting. Jesus was invited to a feast by one of the Pharisees. The Pharisees were not fond of Jesus and there ultimate goal was trap in him in a way that they felt violated the law in effort to discredit him. Jesus on the other hand took this time show them the truth about God. He told them of a story of man preparing a great banquet and sending out many invitation to come to the feast. The guest did not need to bring anything as everything was prepared and all they had to do was accept. Unfortunately many made excuses on why they could not attend the feast. When word got back to the man that some had turned him down he then opened up the invitation to all that would accept his invitation and they were to come as they were. This is the Gospel. It first went to those whom God selected and they rejected Jesus. Then it was open to all and all they have to do is accept that Jesus Christ is the son of God, he died for their sins and that he will be Lord of your life. Those who reject do not get a second invitation. This invitation is only good while you are alive. Once you die and fail to accept the invitation then there will be no other invitation.. John 3:16 says “For God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son, that whosever believe him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” Romans 10:9 states that “If we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in our hearts that God has raised him from the dead, then we shall be saved.”

