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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A2002 ~ The Parable of the Great Feast.**

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*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

In today's Bible Adventure, the Lord Jesus was invited to the home of an important Pharisee to eat an evening Sabbath meal. Many other leading Pharisees were invited also so that they could challenge the Lord Jesus' teachings and watch for anything that might give them an excuse to ask the Romans to put Jesus to death.

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### **DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound.](#)**

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This section of drama comes from Luke, Chapter 14. When the Lord Jesus arrived at the Pharisee's house, He noticed other guests arriving too. When they came in, they chose the best seats at the table. Seeing their pride and desire to be honoured before men, Jesus told them all a parable about being invited to a wedding feast.

At Jewish wedding feasts, some seats are reserved for important people while other seats allocated for less important people or more distant relatives. Usually the most important guests arrive last. If an unimportant guest has taken the place of the important person, the host will need to move the unimportant guest to a less honoured seat. Doing this in front of everyone is a big embarrassment! Therefore, it is wiser to take a lower seat first.

Jesus wasn't meaning that we should show false humility. Some people decide to take a lower seat, knowing that they'll be asked to move up to a higher seat in front of everyone.

Such people pretend to be humble but really want to be honoured before men due to pride in their hearts. Jesus said that whoever promotes himself will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be honoured. These days, seating matters at special functions are taken care of by putting each invited guest's name on a card and standing each card in the place where each person should sit.

While at the meal, the Lord Jesus also noticed that the host had invited only other rich Pharisees and relatives. It was costly feeding all those people but he wouldn't be losing much, for in time, they would invite him back to their houses to feast there. Jesus told His host not to put on a feast or supper for his rich friends but instead, invite the poor and disadvantaged people who couldn't pay him back. Jesus said he would be blessed because they couldn't repay him but that God would repay him for such kindness on the day when all godly people rise from death.

If we do things only to be paid back or rewarded in this life, we will have received our reward on earth already and no reward from God in heaven. It is much better to receive a reward from God than from other people. The rewards here on earth will end but the rewards given by God will last forever. We're told in Matthew, Chapter 6, to lay up treasure in heaven.

What are the treasures of heaven? They are in spiritual things like forgiveness, fellowship with God, the power of prayer, the development of character, moral excellence, the love of God and others, and the hope of heaven. If we keep earthly treasures as our priority and give all our attention to money, possessions and status in life, we find that these things don't last. Jesus said these things are destroyed by moths, rust or are stolen. When we die and leave this world, none of us can take any of our possessions with us. So it makes no sense to devote our life to earthly things that are temporary.

If thieves break in and steal your valuables, they cannot take away your character, remove the love of Christ from your heart or kidnap you out of the kingdom of heaven! These are the truly permanent things of life. However, God knows that we need an income and possessions to provide for our families, needy people and to support the Lord's work. Nowhere in the Bible is it recorded that a rich man was punished for his wealth or a poor man was condemned only because he was poor. But when our income and possessions become our main focus of life, we become worldly-minded and not heavenly-minded.

Jesus wasn't against us inviting rich friends and neighbours over for a meal either. Rich people need to hear the Gospel too and feel loved. But we must be careful not to have wrong motives with our invitations and hope that we can gain something from them. In the same way, we must invite poor people when we have the opportunity, for this will show how much we love people who have less possessions than us as well as providing opportunities for sharing the Gospel with them too.

When Jesus had finished speaking about dinner invitations, one of the listeners spoke without prompting, saying, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!" He meant that the Jews are blessed by God because they are the only ones invited to that feast in heaven. To answer him, Jesus told of a parable about a Great Banquet to help the Jews understand that they were about to lose their places at God's banquet.

This parable of the Great Banquet is set in Matthew, Chapter 22, a little differently to today's drama about the Great Feast. In the parable of the Great Banquet, a king arranged a marriage feast for his son and invited many guests. This king represents God and his son is Christ Jesus. The invited guests were God's chosen people, the Jews. God first invited the Jews through the prophets of the Old Testament and again through Jesus now. But most Jews didn't believe Jesus Christ was the Messiah, the Son of God. So they refused to come to any marriage feast to honour Him.

Patiently, the king sent his servants twice to call in the guests but they still refused to come. Some gave excuses. Others even killed the king's servants (which were the disciples of Jesus). When the king heard about these responses, he was furious and sent his armies to destroy these murderers and their city Jerusalem. Jesus gave this prophecy which was fulfilled 40 years after Jesus' death. It was 70 AD that the Roman army came and destroyed Jerusalem and all the Jews living in it.

Because most of the Jews rejected God's invitation to Christ's banquet, God then invited the Gentiles or non-Jews. The servants went out and called all kinds of good and bad people to the banquet. They gathered all the people they could find until every place at the banquet was filled. When the king came in to see the guests, one person didn't have any wedding clothes on. These wedding clothes represent the righteousness of Christ, which we put on by faith.

One guest without proper wedding clothes represents all those who have not truly believed in Christ and put on His godliness. They are the 'weeds' that grow up with the 'wheat' and the 'bad fish' which are thrown away. They are not allowed to sit down and eat at the feast with the others but instead, are thrown out of the king's house.

The Gospel of Christ is preached to all people and many hear His call and come at first. But in their hearts, they don't fully give their lives to Christ. They come to Christ's wedding banquet to enjoy the tasty foods (which are the blessings of Christ) but they are not prepared to stay and become servants of Christ. They're not chosen. But Christ's servants must be chosen. The man who spoke of the blessings of eating in heaven was among those refusing the invitation to accept Christ's righteousness and sit at His table. This man had rejected the Lord Jesus in his heart and therefore could never gain a seat at the marriage feast one day in the Kingdom of God.

In life, we have to work out our priorities, which are: what's most important, what's most urgent and what can wait a little longer. If we continually focus on what is best for us, we won't achieve God's best for us. Always pray to God first before making a decision. When you write a job list, your choice of what are the most important things you should do first shows how much you love God. His work should always be taken care of before you start on your own personal things.

In the parable when the people received their invitation to the banquet, they gave reasons why they couldn't come, which really were excuses. Who would buy a piece of land without looking at it first? And why would a man buy ten oxen before seeing how well they could plough? When the offer of a lifetime came to these people, they found other things to do. They never seemed to realise just how big God's Kingdom was going to be.

We can allow ourselves to be so busy with the here and now that we neglect to put time and effort into the things of God. But one day for some of us, it will be too late!

Although Jesus first told this parable to the Jews at the Pharisee's house, this parable is written for us too. All who hear Jesus' words are invited to His banquet. Are we going to be like the Jews who put other things first before God? If we do, we too will lose our chance to eat at the banquet. What will our answer be?

God invites every person to enter heaven because He isn't willing that anyone should be punished for their sin in hell, that most terrible place of anguish and hopelessness. But each person on earth has to make a decision for themselves to accept God's invitation, put on Christ's righteousness and join the wedding feast, as this invitation can also be refused. No person can save himself or make himself good enough to meet God's standards, but a person can certainly condemn themselves by refusing the invitation and totally rejecting Jesus' salvation. Those who give themselves to Jesus are then equipped and sent out into the world to invite more people to come to God's wonderful banquet that will honour His Son.

In Proverbs, Chapter 11, Verse 30, it says: “He who wins souls is wise.” Are you accepting God’s invitation or rejecting it? Be wise and ask Jesus to cleanse you from all your wrongdoing. He will hear and gladly respond to your request.

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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