

THE PARABOLIC TEACHING ABOUT CHRIST'S KINGDOM

Lesson 4: The Great Supper. One's Kingdomly Birthright for a Mess of Pottage.

15-Point Chronological Discussion Outline & Worksheet • Dr. Dallas Willard Lecture Series (1983)

1. Teaching Through Paradox & Questions vs. Coercion

Timestamp: Audio ~00:00 – 03:45 | **Scripture Focus:** Proverbs 26:4–5; 2 Corinthians 3:6

Dallas Willard Insight: Jesus bypasses human defensiveness through parables and questions that engage the Holy Spirit, rather than forcing rules or legalistic letters that kill.

Discussion Question: How does Jesus' method of using parables and questions engage our heart rather than forcing external legalistic compliance?

My Notes & Answer:

2. Living Under the Active Governance of God

Timestamp: Audio ~03:45 – 07:15 | **Scripture Focus:** Luke 14:7; Psalm 103:19

Dallas Willard Insight: The parables introduce us into the living reality of the Kingdom, inviting us to organize daily life under God's present governance.

Discussion Question: What does it mean in daily experience to move beyond religious theory and live under God's active governance?

My Notes & Answer:

3. Seating Protocols & Human Pecking Orders

Timestamp: Audio ~07:15 – 10:30 | **Scripture Focus:** Luke 14:7–11; Proverbs 25:6–7

Dallas Willard Insight: Jesus humorously addresses the human desire for social status at banquets, showing that seeking human honor leads to humiliating abasement.

Discussion Question: How does Jesus use humor to confront our subtle desires for human recognition, status, and social positioning?

My Notes & Answer:

4. The Kingdom Principle of Humility

Timestamp: Audio ~10:30 – 14:00 | **Scripture Focus:** Luke 14:11; Matthew 23:12

Dallas Willard Insight: In God's order, the human hierarchy is inverted: whoever exalts himself will be abased, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Discussion Question: Why does self-exaltation inevitably fail, while genuine humility opens the door to true Kingdom honor from God?

My Notes & Answer:

5. Hospitality Without Social Distinctions

Timestamp: Audio ~14:00 – 17:30 | **Scripture Focus:** Luke 14:12–14; Deuteronomy 15:11

Dallas Willard Insight: Eating is meant for nourishment and fellowship, not establishing social elitism. True Kingdom hospitality extends to those who cannot repay you.

Discussion Question: How does inviting those who cannot repay us break our culture's habit of using hospitality for social status?

My Notes & Answer:

6. Individual Responsibility for Needy Souls

Timestamp: Audio ~17:30 – 21:00 | **Scripture Focus:** Luke 14:13–14; James 1:27

Dallas Willard Insight: We must not hide behind institutional programs or taxes to avoid direct, personal, skin-to-skin contact with people in physical and spiritual need.

Discussion Question: Why is personal, hands-on ministry to those in need essential for keeping our own hearts from growing hard?

My Notes & Answer:

7. The Joy of the Heavenly Banquet

Timestamp: Audio ~21:00 – 24:30 | **Scripture Focus:** Luke 14:15; Revelation 19:9

Dallas Willard Insight: Hearing about the Kingdom feast fills the soul with longing, anticipating the glorious day when all God's children gather at His table.

Discussion Question: How does anticipating the joy of God's eternal Kingdom banquet reshape our current priorities and desires on earth?

My Notes & Answer:

8. Prior Invitations & the Jewish Context

Timestamp: Audio ~24:30 – 28:00 | **Scripture Focus:** Luke 14:16–17; Matthew 22:1–3

Dallas Willard Insight: The Great Supper represents God's grand invitation, first extended to Israel, who had already agreed to come but hesitated when ready.

Discussion Question: Why did those who received the initial invitation to God's Kingdom feast hesitate when the time actually arrived?

My Notes & Answer:

9. The Triviality of Superficial Excuses

Timestamp: Audio ~28:00 – 31:30 | **Scripture Focus:** Luke 14:18–20; Haggai 1:5–7

Dallas Willard Insight: Excuses like checking newly bought land or oxen are transparent dodges revealing that the invited guests simply did not care for the Host.

Discussion Question: What do our everyday excuses reveal about whether we truly value and care for the King who invites us?

My Notes & Answer:

10. Losing Eternal Life to Trivial Good Things

Timestamp: Audio ~31:30 – 35:00 | **Scripture Focus:** Luke 14:20; 1 John 2:15–17

Dallas Willard Insight: We are rarely defeated by overt evil, but by the overwhelming weight of small, good, indifferent things that crowd out eternal realities.

Discussion Question: How do small, good, earthly pursuits subtly crowd out our affection and time for God's eternal Kingdom?

My Notes & Answer:

11. The Knock at the Church's Door

Timestamp: Audio ~35:00 – 38:30 | **Scripture Focus:** Revelation 3:20; Luke 14:21–23

Dallas Willard Insight: The invitation to the Great Supper applies directly to church members; Christ stands knocking at the door of religious institutions, seeking entry.

Discussion Question: How can active church members miss the reality of Christ's presence while staying busy with religious activities?

My Notes & Answer:

12. The 'One Thing Necessary' (Mary vs. Martha)

Timestamp: Audio ~38:30 – 42:00 | **Scripture Focus:** Luke 10:38–42; Psalm 27:4

Dallas Willard Insight: Martha was distracted by many good tasks, but Mary chose the 'one thing necessary'—sitting at the feet of Jesus to receive His Word.

Discussion Question: What is the difference between being anxious about many religious tasks and choosing the one thing necessary with Jesus?

My Notes & Answer:

13. Trading Birthrights for a Mess of Pottage

Timestamp: Audio ~42:00 – 45:15 | **Scripture Focus:** Genesis 25:29–34; Hebrews 12:16–17

Dallas Willard Insight: Like Esau trading his eternal birthright for temporary lentil soup to satisfy momentary hunger, we risk trading Kingdom life for fleeting pleasures.

Discussion Question: What temporary 'pottage' are you tempted to trade for the permanent, glorious birthright of living in God's Kingdom?

My Notes & Answer:

14. Counting the Cost of True Discipleship

Timestamp: Audio ~45:15 – 47:30 | **Scripture Focus:** Luke 14:25–33; Matthew 10:37–38

Dallas Willard Insight: Jesus demands that disciples count the cost; unless a person surrenders all competing loyalties and self-will, they cannot enter Kingdom life.

Discussion Question: Why is counting the cost and surrendering self-will a necessary prerequisite for entering into true apprenticeship with Jesus?

My Notes & Answer:

15. Transitioning from Membership to Discipleship

Timestamp: Audio ~47:30 – 50:00 | **Scripture Focus:** Luke 14:33; Luke 6:40

Dallas Willard Insight: True faith requires a conscious decision to become a disciple—organizing every detail of daily life under the guidance of the living King.

Discussion Question: Have you made a conscious choice to become an active disciple of Jesus rather than resting in mere church membership?

My Notes & Answer:
