

Presence is the point.

We are all about **Jesus**.

The greatest thing that can ever happen to a person is **Jesus**.

The greatest blessings we have as human beings:

- To live in His presence
- To enjoy the privileges of being in His family
- To carry out the responsibilities of being in His Kingdom

There is a **price**.

I Peter 3:18 (MSG)

... what Christ did definitively: suffered because of others' sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all—was put to death and then made alive—to bring us to God.

The Price:

- The one God paid.
- The one we pay.

Luke 14:15 (ESV)

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**!"

Luke 14:16-17 (ESV)

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.'

The Way God Sees It:

- The **importance** (~great) of the invitation.
- The **price of preparation has been paid**.
- The **Kingdom is defined relationally**.
- The **time is now** → immediacy & availability

Psalm 27:8 (ESV)

You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."

Luke 14:18-21 (ESV)

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**.’

The Nature of the Excuses:

- No “excuse” was inherently **wrong**
- Every “excuse seemed ‘**urgent**’

The price we pay is the **price of importance** (*priority; concern*).

Luke 5:11 (ESV)

And when they had brought their boats to land, **they left everything and followed him**.

Luke 14:21-23 (ESV)

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.

The nature of God’s anger is **relational**.

The point of the parable:

God will always have a people; but people will not always have God.

Luke 14:24 (ESV)

For I tell you, **none** of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.”

3 Prices We Must Consider:

- The price Jesus **paid**
- The price of **importance/priority**
- The price of **saying ‘No’ to the invitation**

We **pay either way**.

Luke 14:25-27 (ESV)

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:28-32 (ESV)

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

Luke 14:33 (ESV)

So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

The Cross: to have no other will, ambition, or agenda other than to be WITH Jesus

4 Never's Needed in our Lives:

- Never say “There's nothing wrong with it”
- Never claim ownership (renounce)
- Never look at God through the lens of your plans
- Never run from or refuse examination

I Corinthians 11:28 (ESV)

Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.