

Y'ALL COME EAT

September 1, 2019

Rev. Erin Wathen, Week of Compassion



Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Week of Compassion works through a remarkable network of ecumenical and global partner organizations, ensuring that the response to humanitarian needs remains efficient, effective and faithful. Through these partnerships, Disciples join a network of caring that brings help and hope to hurting people in every corner of the world.

Luke 14:15-24

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

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CONTEXT

Jesus and the Disciples are traveling, and they have stopped to share a Sabbath meal at the home of a Pharisee leader. When Jesus notices that guests at the meal are scrambling to find the best seat, he takes the opportunity to use the table image as not one, but TWO parables for the Kingdom of God.

BIG IDEA

Everyone is invited: but you've gotta show up for dinner.

GO DEEPER

www.weekofcompassion.org

<https://www.growinghopeglobally.org/>

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. When was the last time you were invited to something? How did it make you feel to be asked?
3. What does it mean to be a good guest?
4. What are some of the excuses that people might offer for not accepting an invitation or call from God?
5. How does Jesus "flip the script" on people's expectations in this story?

http://www.casm.hn/CASM_2019/

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/07/15/485843453/it-was-a-mellow-summer-dinner-party-then-the-gunman-appeared>

PRAYER

God, you have called us to be guests at the table; and also to be stewards of the feast. For this fullness of life and faith, and for loved ones to share in its abundance, we give you thanks. Guide us to be faithful disciples of the one who breaks the bread; the one who invites the poor to the table; the one who calls us all to share and serve. May we have the courage to make more room at the table, where others only build walls. May we recognize the gifts and worth of even the most vulnerable among us. Show us how to seek out the uninvited, that we might make your love known in all things. And help us to always answer your invitation when you call us in for dinner. In your name and by your grace we pray, amen.

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