

The Eating Parables

Luke 15:1-32

Decoding the Parables

- Jesus is speaking to a mixed audience of _____ and _____.
- Jesus is responding to the Pharisees' _____.
- The Pharisees are _____ about Jesus' habit of eating with _____.
- Jesus' dinner company matters because the _____ of the Messiah is an image of the _____ of God.

The Parables

- The sinners are the _____ ones who are _____ from God's will and commands.
- The Pharisees are the _____ ones who have _____ from God's will and commands.
- Jesus is the one who _____ the lost, and _____ when they are found.

- Jesus was _____ the sinners to return to God's _____.

- Jesus was _____ the Pharisees to join in the _____ at the return of the lost.

Eating with Jesus Today

- The Feast of the Messiah is a celebration of _____, not _____.
- Sinners miss out when they refuse to be _____ to _____.
- Pharisees miss out when they refuse to be _____ to _____.
- Following Jesus isn't about just "_____." It's about sharing Jesus' mission and _____.
- Jesus' table is always open—to _____ and _____ alike.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
2. Can you sympathize with the Pharisees at all? Have you ever been in a situation where you thought others were forgiven too easily?
3. Why do you think the Pharisees cared so much about Jesus' behavior? Why did it upset them so much?
4. Think about the kinds of sacrifices the Pharisees made to follow the law. Have you had to make sacrifices to do the right thing in your life?
5. Do you agree that it's possible for a righteous person to miss out on the Kingdom of God? Why or why not?
6. How kinds of things can righteous (law-keeping) people do that oppose the Kingdom of God?
7. What difference does it make to view the Kingdom of God as a celebration of reconciliation instead of vindication?
8. What does it look like to accept the invitation of Jesus to join in the celebration? How does it change our choices and behaviors?
9. Do you have more in common with the younger brother or the older brother right now? What does that mean for what God wants you to do right now?
10. How can we as a church be open to the Celebration of Reconciliation?