

“The Guest”

Luke 14:1-14 Sunday AM, February 22, 2026

Prelude: Scripture: Luke 13:31-14:14^(NASB95) Just at that time some Pharisees approached, saying to Him, “Go away, leave here, for Herod wants to kill You.”³² And He said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.’”³³ “Nevertheless I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next day; for it cannot be that a prophet would perish outside of Jerusalem.”³⁴ “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!”³⁵ “Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’”¹ It happened that when He went into the house of one of the leaders of the Pharisees on the Sabbath to eat bread, they were watching Him closely.² And there in front of Him was a man suffering from dropsy.³ And Jesus answered and spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?”⁴ But they kept silent. And He took hold of him and healed him, and sent him away.⁵ And He said to them, “Which one of you will have a son or an ox fall into a well, and will not immediately pull him out on a Sabbath day?”⁶ And they could make no reply to this.⁷ And He began speaking a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor at the table, saying to them,⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him,⁹ and he who invited you then will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this man,’ and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place.”¹⁰ “But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you.”¹¹ “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”¹² And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment.”¹³ “But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,¹⁴ and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The kingdom of God has come. Look at the miracles and listen to the teaching about God as Jesus cares for souls. And yet, why so few responding to Jesus? Why such opposition? Though small like a mustard seed or bit of leaven, the kingdom WOULD grow, spreading til it fills the earth with its king victorious. So how do I respond now when few respond? “Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.” What?!? AND this narrow door will soon shut and those knocking will not be recognized. What?!? ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets’; We were right there “busy” with you. “DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.”²⁸ “In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out. Jesus, you send mixed signals—I thought you care for us? Don’t figure it all out but think. IF it is this easy to miss Jesus, isn’t it a gift to be warned? Pay attention to the One warning. What is He doing? In the face of warnings that Herod sought to kill Him, Jesus remained resolute. I have a job to do. “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.’”³³ “Nevertheless I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next day; for it cannot be that a prophet would perish outside of Jerusalem. Standing against, pushing through, but heart soft for those who reject.³⁴ “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it! Praise God for His merciful words and care even as He righteously judges and works His good will. May we trust God’s provision to accomplish His will in and through us as we seek to be faithful following Christ.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Though Troubles Assail Us

Another sabbath healing and another use of care for animals to expose their misguided zeal for God. You would pull your animal from the ditch, but not restore this man’s hand? Let’s get this straight. Just how do you determine wisdom and kingdom of God priorities? Be slow to take the place of honor. You know how that works here at this dinner. Someone might determine someone else has more honor than you and you will be humbled in front of all. Let THEM move you up. But they won’t! Can you wait and trust God to make a place for you? Follow Him, learn, trust, can you LIVE this way? He will protect and use you. How? Where? Under His wings—that’s what He longed to do for rebellious Jerusalem—will you stay there under His wings? We haven’t sung this hymn for some time on a Sunday Morning—it’s about time. It’s the identity and privilege of those in fellowship with God.

*Hymn #356: Under His Wings *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: My Redeemer is Faithful & True Scripture: Hebrews 11:17–12:3

^(NASB95) By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son.¹⁸ *it was he to whom it was said, “IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED.”*¹⁹ He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.²⁰ By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come.²¹ By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, *leaning* on the top of his staff.²² By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter,²⁵ choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,²⁶ considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them.²⁹ By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though *they were passing* through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned.³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.³¹ By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.³² And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,³³ who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed *acts of righteousness*, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.³⁵ Women received *back* their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection;³⁶ and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment.³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated³⁸ (*men of whom the world was not worthy*), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.³⁹ And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,⁴⁰ because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.¹ Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Offering: *Doxology:

The hall of faith. I heard some tough, messy situations that required feeling pressure, weighing priorities, and then acting. But they weren’t known for any of this because that would mean THEY were great. Whatever they went through and endured was highlighted because they looked beyond it. Take away the chapter division and we too are called not merely to endure, but to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Study these examples, then look where they looked. THIS is how true saving faith lives. The battle is the Lord’s.

*Hymn #472: The Battle Is the Lord’s

You may be seated. Who did you invite? Jesus said *to the one who had invited Him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment.* 13 “But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” This sounds right, just, godly, but do you know what it costs, not just financially to actually live like this? It is often thankless—many will applaud if you work hard and do well for yourselves or if you seem to have good family life. But living this way puts tension on these goals and you will often feel the critical eye, not even receiving enough appreciation from those you sought to care for. How do you carry the weight of sorting through priorities, criticisms, and the work of growing to know God? Are you learning and growing in fellowship with God in a way slowly seen by others or are you just existing, maintaining, using yesterday’s capital with God and others and living for lesser rewards than the ones God gives His own? Today, we hear we must wait for honor, for reward for true service, and for final justice. Remember, Christians follow Christ. They look to Him because He leads us home to God. Think on this as Pastor Jahn preaches.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Almost Home

Message: “The Guest” Luke 14:1-14

*Hymn #455: Come All Christians Be Committed *Prayer