

“Forfeited”

Luke 14:15-24 Sunday AM, March 1, 2026

Prelude: Scripture: Luke 14:12-24(NASB95) 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.” 15 When one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” 16 But He said to him, “A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; 17 and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’ 18 “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.’ 19 “Another one said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.’ 20 “Another one said, ‘I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.’ 21 “And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’ 22 “And the slave said, ‘Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ 23 “And the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled. 24 ‘For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.’”

What does it take to stop you? What do you fear? How would you handle their warning? Jesus, Herod seeks to kill you. When? How? NO! “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. I have a job to do and must complete it. Jesus stands against, pushes forward, and yet still has a 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! Last week, we saw that mercy extended to one suffering a chronic illness, most likely planted at a Sabbath dinner hosted by one of the leaders. Jesus healed him, then spoke to those who thought they trapped Him in unrighteousness. You would pull your animal from the ditch, but not restore this man’s hand? Just whom are you pleasing with your guidelines for godliness? How do YOU determine wisdom and kingdom priorities? Be slow to take the place of honor. You know how that works here at this dinner. Get it wrong and someone may ask you to move so the one with true honor can sit there, humbling you in front of all. But they don’t recognize my wisdom and THEY are proud. Can you wait and trust God to make a place for you? He cares for ones like you—ones who can NOT repay Him for the invitation to His banquet. Remember, Jesus told the one who invited him to dinner to not invite those who could repay, but rather, **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.**” Live HERE, trusting God to repay you, because He CAN and WILL repay from the riches of His compassion. Worship God’s power, care, and salvation, you know the tune.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): God, All Nature Sings Thy Glory**

Um . . . Jesus just crossed his host, questioning his motives and telling him who to invite. One around the table cleared the air, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” Jesus doesn’t let up, leaning in farther, telling of one who invited many to a great dinner, only to be brushed aside by many when dinner came because of other priorities. The man in great anger told his servant to go invite those NOT invited who DON’T have means to repay and who will come. So, do you think you have the means to repay those who minister to you or don’t you? Regardless, will you come to Jesus’ table? Does your life show you honor His grace to you? Come to the dinner. Come because it is JESUS who calls you. Come.

***Hymn #336: Jesus, I Come *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: Once & for All**

Scripture: Hebrews 1:1–2:4 (NASB95) God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, “YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU”? And again, “I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME”? 6 And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, “AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM.” 7 And of the angels He says, “WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE.” 8 But of the Son He says, “YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM. 9 “YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS.” 10 And, “YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; 11 THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT, 12 AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END.” 13 But to which of the angels has He ever said, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET”? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation? 1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, 3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

Offering: *Doxology:

God has spoken—in the past through prophets, His spokesmen. He’s done it many times and various other ways. In these last days, He has spoken to us through His Son. Imagine communicating with an angel. While they care for those who inherit salvation, Jesus is GREATER than the angels. What has He spoken? So great a salvation as to bring us back to God. Don’t neglect God’s final word! Christ is not just the cross, but the work of the cross enables us to be in and under Christ, welcomed to the marriage supper of the Lamb. May this song be your prayer!

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Christ Is All**

You may be seated. What’s the big deal with the dinner? I have plans. Yes, but HIS plan is to have a full house. Have you ever been to something empty? Sometimes, you like it—an amusement park, a campground, but are you sure you want an empty restaurant? I remember traveling a good distance because someone wanted a German restaurant. It was open, but empty—sketchy building, NO cars in the lot, the food??? MEH! That’s not what we are talking about—God not only invites, but He WILL have a full house. If you were invited, how could you turn that down? What is more important? What obscures or threatens to obscure God’s grace for you? Let it go. Why? Refuse now and Jesus says, **I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.’ ”** Sobering. See the grace of God, worship, and come. NOW! Consider this as Pastor preaches.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): How Sweet and Awful**

Message: “Forfeited” Luke 14:15-24 *Hymn #331: Room at the Cross for You *Prayer