

EXCUSE ME FROM THE BANQUET

Jesus told this story. “A man gave a great banquet, and invited a lot of people. On that day, he sent a servant through the village to say that everything was ready, and to come to the banquet.

“The servant came back and told the master that each of the guests had an excuse for not coming to the banquet. One had a new field that he had to look over, another had a bought new animal that he wanted to see.

“The master became angry. He told the servant to go into the city and invite the poor, and those who could not walk, and those who were blind. The servant said, ‘We have done that already. There is still room!’

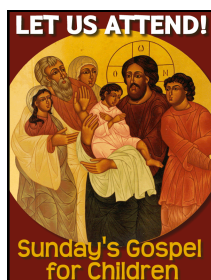
“The master then said, ‘Go out onto the highways, and make people come, that my house may be filled! And I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.’”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. In the story Jesus told, a man gave a great banquet. A banquet is a big dinner. Have you been to a banquet?
2. The master had a servant. He told the servant to go out and tell everyone the banquet was ready.
3. Did anyone come when the servant did that? What other things did they have to do?
4. The master finally told the servant to make people come.
5. The story ends with the master saying “For many are called, but few are chosen.” This is to teach us a lesson.
6. God calls each of us to a banquet every Sunday. It is Holy Communion. We should not have excuses, like, “I don’t want to get out of bed,” or, “I want to stay home and watch TV.” God wants us to come to church, and Holy Communion every Sunday,



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)



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Pre-12



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Holy Communion for the Faithful

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Materials:

- * an example of an invitation to a party
- * white drawing paper, folded into a card
- * crayons, colored pencils, and/or markers
- * clip art, if desired

Procedure:

1. After reading the Gospel story to your child, take time to review the discussion questions following the story.
2. Remind your child that Jesus invites us to come to church every Sunday and take Holy Communion. Discuss with your child why we should accept this invitation and go to church as often as we can.
3. Show your child an example of an invitation. Explain how we receive invitations when someone wants us to come to their party. Show your child how it gives information about the party in the card. Tell your child that they will be making an invitation to come to church.
4. Ahead of time, write the following words on the inside of the invitation: What?, When?, Where?, Why?
5. On the front of the card, help your child print the following words: "You are Invited!"
6. On the inside of the card, discuss the answers to the 4 "W" questions. Help your child print the correct answers on the lines beside the question words or print the words for your child after they provide the answers. For example:

What? Divine Liturgy

When? Sunday morning

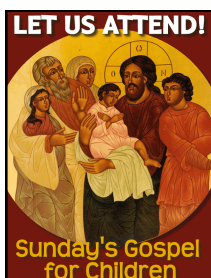
Where? (your church name)

Why? to take Holy Communion and be closer to God

7. When this part of the card is completed, allow your child to decorate the invitation with church related drawings (examples: church building, the chalice, the priest, icons, Jesus, etc.) Instead of drawing, you may choose to visit the following website to print out clip art for your child to glue on their invitation: <http://dce.oca.org/resources/line-drawings/>



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One day, Jesus told a parable. (A parable is a story with a special meaning.) He said, “Once a man gave a big banquet. (A banquet is a big meal.) He invited many people to come to the banquet.

“The day of the banquet came. The man sent his servant to tell the people who were invited that the banquet was ready and they should come. The servant went all over town to talk to all the people who had been invited.

“Every person had an excuse. One said he had to watch over his new field. Another said he wanted to go see the animals he had just bought. A third had just gotten married and couldn’t come.

“None of the invited people would come to the banquet!

“When the servant told his master this, the man was angry. He told the servant to go out into the streets and alleys of the city. He said his servant should bring the poor, the hurt, the blind, and those who couldn’t walk.

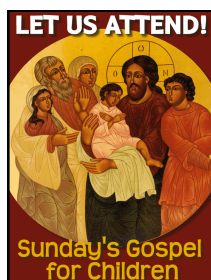
“The servant did that, but there was still room for more people. When he told his master, the man said, ‘Then go to the highways and make the people come in! I want my house to be full! And none of those that I invited will eat this banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.’”



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. In the story Jesus told, a man gave a great banquet. Have you ever been to a banquet? What happens at a banquet?
2. The master had a servant. What was the first thing he asked the servant to do?
3. Did the invited people come to the banquet? Why, or why not?
4. Who came to the banquet? Was there still room after they came?
5. What did the master say then?
6. The story ends with the master saying, “Many are called, but few are chosen.” This is to teach us a lesson. God wants everyone in the kingdom, to live with Him forever. When we come to Holy Communion each Sunday, we come to the banquet of our Lord. We should not have excuses, like, “I want to stay home and relax.” God wants us to come to church. We must be sure to say “yes” to God.



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The Lord spoke this parable, “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for all is now ready.’

“But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master.

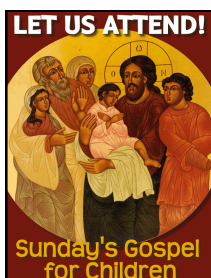
“Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.’”



Image courtesy of Teaching Pics

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Have you ever thrown a party? What did you do to get ready for it?
2. After preparing for your party, how would you have felt if none of your guests came?
3. Why is the master in this Gospel upset that his guests didn't come to his dinner? What are the people in the Gospel saying is important to them?
4. Who do you think the master in this Gospel represents?
5. Who do you think the people in the story represent?
6. What dinner does God invite you to? How can you show God that you value His invitation?



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Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Servant, Person 1,
Person 2, Groom, Master

Narrator: The Lord spoke this parable,

Jesus: A man once gave a great banquet,
and invited many; and at the time
for the banquet he sent his servant
to say to those who had been invit-
ed,

Servant: Come, for all is now ready.

Jesus: But, one by one, they all began to
make excuses. The first said to him,

Person 1: I have bought a field, and I must go
out and see it; I pray you, have me
excused.

Narrator: And another said,

Person 2: I have bought five yoke of oxen, and
I go to examine them; I pray you,
have me excused.

Narrator: And another said,

Man: I have married a wife, and therefore
I cannot come.

Jesus: So the servant came and reported
this to his master.

Then the householder in anger said
to his servant,

Master: Go out quickly to the streets and
lanes of the city, and bring in the
poor and maimed and blind and
lame.

Narrator: And the servant said,

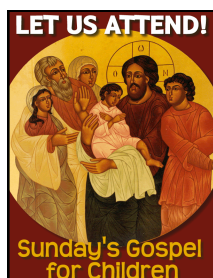
Servant: Sir, what you commanded has been
done, and still there is room.

Narrator: And the master said to the servant,

Master: Go out to the highways and hedges,
and compel people to come in, that
my house may be filled. For I tell
you, none of those men who were
invited shall taste my banquet. For
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sen.



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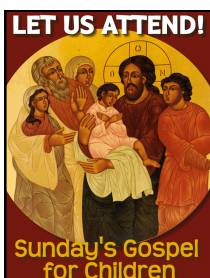
Image courtesy of Teaching Pics

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of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.’”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why is the master upset the guests didn't come to his dinner? How would this make you feel? Why?
2. Do you think the guests had good reasons for not going to the dinner? Why or why not?
3. What would you want guests to do to prepare for a party you were hosting?
4. Who do you think the master represents in this story? Why do you say that?
5. What dinner does God invite you to?
6. How can you be a thankful guest? How can you show God you value His invitation and preparation?



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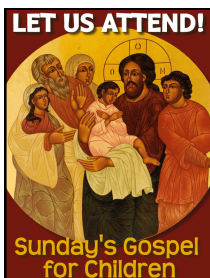
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What are the people in the story saying is important to them? How do you know this?
2. Who do you think the master represents in the story? Why?
3. Why is the master upset no one came to his dinner?
4. What did you do today? What do your actions say about what is important to you?
5. How can one decide which priorities come first?
6. What actions do we do as a family to show serving God is a priority? What actions do you do to show serving God is a priority for you?
7. Is it ever okay or necessary to miss Divine Liturgy? When? Why or why not?



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