

SESSION SIXTEEN: How does God react to my excuses? *Luke 14 v 15-24*
Full Route

1. Jesus' original hearers were invited by Jesus in person, and also by the prophets God sent in Old Testament times. We are invited by Jesus through the New Testament, for example by this Gospel you're reading through now!
2. About viewing a newly bought field, and testing out some new oxen. The excuses are to do with business and career, which we consider to be pretty important!
4. Having just got married is the third excuse. It seems like a good excuse: family and relationships (particularly marriage) are very important, and many would say they should come first in life.
6. The master is angry at excuses like these. We can see why he's angry if we compare his invitation with the excuses. He has prepared an amazing feast—the field and the oxen (v 18, 19) could wait! The new husband or wife (v 20) could be brought to the feast! He has prepared an amazing feast; business, career and family are not as important as God's invitation to his kingdom. If we decide that we would rather have these things than respond to God's invitation, he is rightly angry.
7. This is a tricky question—but hopefully, by this stage in Luke's Gospel, you've seen that spiritually speaking you're not able-bodied, but rather, crippled by your sin, your failure to live with God as King. Being invited into his kingdom despite being sinners is amazing!
8. Because he wants the house to be full. We're being told that Jesus wants his kingdom to be full of people who've responded to his invitation: he loves to invite people to join his banquet.
9. Jesus' teaching is both a promise and a warning. It's a promise that no matter who we are, we can enjoy kingdom life if we respond to Jesus' invitation with a "yes" (we don't need to do any more than that!). But equally the warning is not to make excuses of any kind, because refusing to come into the kingdom now means we will be shut out of it for ever (v 24).