

Invited to the Table of God

Scripture: Luke 14:15-23

Season/Sunday: World Communion Sunday.

Focus: God's home is open to everyone. God invites all of us to share a meal together in his kingdom. Our only responsibility is to attend!

Experience: Everyone is invited to the Table of God to take communion. Some adults in the pew pretend to leave the service because they need to attend other important events. The children remain and (if this is part of your faith tradition) are invited to partake in the Lord's Supper.

Arrangements: Usual Holy Communion setup. Preselect several adults to interrupt the children's sermon.

Leader: (*Without calling the children forward*) Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God. Once again, we come to this table of God because God invited us to celebrate and remem . . .

Interrupter 1: (*Gets up*) Oh, I'm so sorry. Thanks for the invitation, but I can't stay. I just bought a new house and I need to go see it.

L: (*Looking bothered*) Ahem . . . as I was saying, once again, we come to this table of . . .

Interrupter 2: (*Gets up*) Oh, I'm sorry too. I have to go. I just bought a new DVD player, and I want to test it out.

L: (*Looking even more bothered*) We come to this table of God because God invited us to celebrate and remem . . .

Interrupter 3: (*Gets up*) My apologies, but my best friend is getting married. I need to go now to get to his wedding.

L: Children, would you please come up and gather around the table of God?

Children: (*Children hesitantly approach the area.*)

L: Wow, thank you all for coming when I invited you. Jesus once told a story about someone who planned a great dinner and invited many people. When the dinner was ready, he asked all those who were invited to come. But just like today, many who were invited began making excuses and didn't come. So the host invited other people who were not usually invited to these parties like the poor, the sick, the crippled, the blind, and the lame. Jesus told this story to show that God invites everyone, children too, to come to the feast in God's kingdom. Sharing the Lord's Supper can help us remember God's invitation to the great feast in heaven.

Interrupters: Hey, we changed our minds. We want to come to the Lord's Supper, too!

L: That's great! Welcome back! Let's all pray and prepare our hearts for the Lord's Supper... (*prayer*).

Joyce S. Fong