

# Weaving the Word

## Dinner for Dogs

February 9, 2020

*Welcome to where we're learning to come when we're called!*



**Are you ashamed of yourself?** Well you should be! *And* you shouldn't be.

**Totally depends on what you're ashamed of.**



And it's totally different than being embarrassed. A guy might be *embarrassed* about this; but **it's what he is**; and there's nothing to be ashamed of. Of this he should be ashamed; **it's what he did**.



Though **it's right to feel shame from sinful words and deeds, it's wrong to condemn ourselves as being worthless, hopeless, unwanted, lost causes.**



Like the demon-filled Gadarene pre-Jesus. Versus the same guy post-Jesus, left alone to call the gentile "dogs" of the Decapolis to come meet their Master. One year later, in a teaching boat, Jesus led them on a three-day shoreline tour into the region of legion.



Then [as we saw last Sunday] During those [three] days [as they drew to a close] he went up on a mountainside and sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. – Mt 15:29-30; Mk 8:1 NIV



**God doesn't want those created in His image to be ashamed of their being.**



But, their *doing*? Well, that's another story.



Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; [the Gentiles] they have *already* been with me *three days* and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, if I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a *long distance* [in the Decapolis]." His disciples answered, "But Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd?" where in this remote place can *anyone* get enough bread to feed them?" – Mt 15:32-33; Mk 8:2-4 NIV



Do they *not remember* how He fed the 5,000? Yes. But, *those* were the *children* of the house of Israel. And *these* are the ... *dogs* of the Decapolis.



[Jesus himself had said] It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs. [So they don't even consider it for *this crowd*] – Mt 15:26 NIV



But after feeding His Jewish followers, He spent the day being rejected (by the rulers) as the Bread of Life; and *then* went to Tyre where what He *actually* said, was ...



*“First let the children eat all they want,”* he told her, *“for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs.”* *“Yes, Lord,”* she replied, *“but even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs. [And Jesus is pleased and agrees that the little dogs that are beneath the children deserve whatever they discard] ... from their masters’ table.”* – Mt 15:26; Mk 7:27 NIV



Just before the 5,000, Jesus ate with those rulers in Jerusalem, where He explained this whole thing with a parable.

[One of them] said to Jesus, “Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ ““Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’” – Luke 14:15-24 NIV

This parable isn’t for those who reject the invitation to come; but to those who receive it, accept it, RSVP ... *and then refuse*. A servant was sent to let them know when everything was ready.

The first said, “I have just bought a field, and I *must go and see it.*” [*“Dude. You gave you’re your word. This cost me. I sacrificed.”* “*But, I’m preoccupied with my property and possessed by possessions*”] ... Another said, “I have just bought five yoke of oxen, [*“I got a big business”* to run] and I’m on my way to try them out.” [*Got’a try something new! Got’a test drive those doggies!*] ... another said, “I just got married, so I can’t come.” [*“It got vetoed. She’s the boss. If Mama ain’t happy ...”*] – Luke 14:18-20 NIV



**Putting family first and Christ second dooms every relationship.** So, when Jesus says *come*, walk, talk, listen, learn, seek, find, praise, thank, gather, and encourage, **do you jump and run, cut and bail, or head-butt?**

“But, my boat.” “But, my schedule.” “But, the game.” **Got’a get off our “buts”!** *Know why?* The host makes haste to give undesirables what ungratefuls waste. **The Lord loves lame children; but, hates lame excuses.**

*Go out quickly* into the streets and alleys of the town [*polis*] and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame. [*Who the religious deemed as shameful outcasts*]

After this meal, Jesus grabs the Twelve, and they “go out quickly” ...

To a town [polis] called Bethsaida. [Where they were met by a large crowd of the poor, crippled, blind, and lame: Israel’s outcasts from the streets and alleys of the polis] ... like sheep without a shepherd. So He welcomed them, began teaching them about the kingdom of God, and healed their sick. ... and [they] followed him ... [and He fed them; and] When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” – Mt 14:14; Mk 6:34; Lk 9:10-11; Jn 6:2, 12 NIV

Now, back to the banquet parable He told a few days before. The servant reports back:

“What you ordered has been done, but there is still room.” [Time to gather the outcasts of the outcasts of Israel. So, He goes to Tyre] ... “Go out [beyond the polis] to the roads [hodos] and country lanes [phragmos: hedges] [in the region of Legion] – Luke 14:22-23 NIV

[Now back to our story in the region of Legion] If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way [hodos], because some of them have come a long distance [in the Deca polis].” ... “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied. He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and they did so. They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people. The people all ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. [I guess He still has some feedin’ to do!] The number of those who ate was about four thousand men, besides women and children. – Mt 15:34-38; Mk 8:3, 5-9 NIV



This pretty much sums up sharing our faith:

**Servants inviting the hungry to come and get it.**

**How would you define fasting for the Lord?**

Is that what *you* call a fast ... Is not *this* the kind of fasting I have chosen: ... to share your food with the hungry ... *then* you will *find your joy in the Lord*, and I will cause you ... to *feast* on the *inheritance* ... – Isaiah 58:5-14 NIV

... and make them come in, so that my house will be full. [of joy!] – Luke 14:23 NIV

“Make them come in”. They’ll be skeptical. **They’ll need convincing that they’re wanted and welcome.** On Jesus’ first trip over, they took one look at the invitation and begged Him to leave. Just before the cross, Jesus tells the same banquet parable to the same rulers. (Mt 21:45-22:14) The “**certain man**” is a Father King. The “**great banquet**” his son’s wedding feast. And the excuse makers were more than a little ungrateful.

[They] seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. [And the Father is more than a little angry] The king was *enraged*. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, “The *wedding banquet* is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.” [Turns out those religious rulers are the *real dogs* – as they’re depicted, by David, around the cross (Ps 22:16)] – Matthew 22:5-8 NIV



I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet. [They don't even deserve a doggy bag!] - Luke 14:24 NIV

**There'll be no takeout in the Kingdom.** You got'a come in.

**But there will be *toss-outs*.**

When the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. [The call to come came with special wedding clothes] 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "For many are invited, but few are chosen." – Matthew 22:11-14 NIV

Know who's on the Bridegroom's preferred guest list: **anyone who wouldn't expect your invitation, kindness, or generosity.** To be safe, just **invite anyone you wouldn't want to invite.**

Make a list of everyone you know, put them in order of favorite to most-ashamed-of.

Then, turn it upside down and start inviting!

**The big snob dogs weren't ashamed of what they should've been.**

So, Jesus went to the little dogs who *were* rightly ashamed.

[We read it last Sunday] Behold! My Servant ... as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes ... they shall be greatly ashamed ... who say to the molded images, [whether property, possessions, business, relationships, or whatever] "You are our gods." – Isaiah 42:1-7, 17 NKJ

But, they took it too far.

**The little dogs were ashamed of what they shouldn't have been.** And begged Him to leave, for fear of what the Lord would do to those who were lame with shame.

[But, Paul calls out] You who are Gentiles ... were separate ... excluded from citizenship in Israel ... foreigners ... without hope ... you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ ... who [like at a wedding] has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier [*phragmos: hedges*] – Ephesians 2:11-14 NIV

**Jesus got the party started!** And like the Gadarene, **we're called to keep the party going!**

**But, first we have to commit.**

**Then we have to come and get it when He calls.**

**Everything is now ready ... are you?**