

Mar. 15 - Scripture: Luke 14: 15-35

A verse that speaks to you: 18a But they all alike began to make excuses.

Observation: In Christ, God has offered us the greatest gift since creation; restoration. Our broken relationships between individuals, political parties, and entire nations testify of our even greater relational fracture with our heavenly Father. Yet when this loving Father offers His people His own Son, we often turn Him away because we're too preoccupied with our own lives. The irony is, if we would accept God's daily grace in Christ, the other areas of our lives that we get obsessed over would be covered in this grace as well. This parable speaks to me as a believer because even though I am an "insider" already restored by God, I had better not forsake God's daily invitation to His presence, lest He look elsewhere for more interested company!

Application: I need to just realize that when I sit down to spend time in God's word, it's not out of my duty to grow as a Christian, and it's not to impress God with my devotion, but it is an answer to His invitation to be present together. No brownie points, just banquet time. I have a sitting with the King!

Prayer: Lord, thank you for your gracious invitation to be present with you. You invite me to Your banquet and I know that invitation carries weight with it. Please grant that I may remember who has requested my presence, and allow me to remember what an honor it is. Thank you for restoring my relationship to you; let me not break it again!

Writer: Jacob Collins - Current youth director, former youth director, church member since 1996. My wife, Angela, and I were just married, and focused presence is a big deal! The honeymoon was a great reminder that God desires my exclusive attention and affection as well. I enjoy listening to and playing music, culinary creativity, exercising, and the beach. It's great to be back at Eastminster!