



## The REPLY Edition #010

Welcome to The REPLY #010.

We are off and running for 2018! Our “Parables” mini-series has been fantastic thus far and I hope it has provoked discussion, thought and a fresh look at some of those timeless teachings of Jesus.

### **“The Parable of the Wedding Banquet” Preaching Summary**

- The parables of Jesus are often left unexplained. Many of Jesus’ parables carry multiple layers of meaning and truth to our lives.
- Matthew 22:1-14 (The Message Translation)
- Luke 14 - The context of this parable is vital to its purpose, meaning and applications for our lives
  - 1) God’s Kingdom has a culture we must carry
    - 2 Corinthians 5:20
    - The more we experience God’s Kingdom, the better we are to represent it
    - Abiding in Christ > Knowing about Christ
    - People respond to the culture our lives carry more so than our wisdom or knowledge
  - 2) Rejection is part of the deal
    - Some respond to God’s invitation positively, some negatively
    - We are responsible for inviting people to taste the Kingdom, not for people’s response
    - Matthew 10:11-14 - Shake rejection off and let your peace return to you
  - 3) God’s Kingdom is appealing, inclusive & inviting
    - We are making an appeal and imploring people on Jesus’ behalf to be reconciled to God
    - We invite people to “taste the Kingdom” in any way possible
    - 59% of Australian who come to faith in Jesus say church gatherings were a significant factor for them in doing so
- *“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” - John Wesley*

### **Devotions / Discussion Starters**

Recommended readings: Matthew 22:1-14 // Luke 14:1-24 // 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13

Questions to consider:

- What do these parables (Luke 14 & Matthew 22) highlight to you?
- What does being an “ambassador for Christ” mean to you?
- Is there any connection between that title and the way you’d describe your purpose on earth?
- Read through 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13 quietly 2-3 times. What words or verses stand out the most to you?

Prayer:

- Pray for the unity of our church in 2018 as we launch our theme and direction for the year throughout the month of February
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to speak to every individual as He leads and guides us to respond and make our own next steps in our faith journey
- Pray for the people in our world who we’re inviting to “taste and see that the Lord is good”