

The literary structure of Luke 14:15-24

The parable of the great banquet

Inclusion - banquet/invited: ¹⁵When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" ¹⁶But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many.

Round #1

a) The servant sent out: ¹⁷And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

b) Excuses: ¹⁸But they all alike began to make excuses.

- The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.'
- ¹⁹And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.'
- ²⁰And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

a1) The servant comes back: ²¹So the servant came and reported these things to his master.

Round #2

a) The servant sent out: Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.'

a1) The servant comes back: ²²And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.'

Round #3

a) The servant sent out: ²³And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.

Inclusion - invited/banquet: ²⁴For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

*Each round of summons has fewer elements.