

STRATEGY FOR A FULL HOUSE

Luke 14:23

Int: In the story the master stands for God and the feast for salvation and all that fellowship with God includes. The point is clear. If the rulers of the Jews and the Pharisees will not take their places in the kingdom of God, he will fill those vacancies with publicans and sinners, yes, and even Gentiles. God wants a full house because empty seats do not honor the Master of the house! From the parable a reader can glean “a strategy for a full house.” Those who fill God’s house for God’s glory must

CATCH A GREAT VISION

Everything began with a great vision. The master set his sights on having a full house and would not turn loose of that dream until it became reality.

“Nothing happens without first a dream.” Everything that now—including the whole world and everyone in it—started as a dream in someone’s mind.

George Bernard Shaw first said, “Some men see things as they are and ask why? Other dream things that never were and ask why not?” A congregation that fills its house must dream things that never were and ask Why not?

The only thing worse than having no sight is having no vision. If ever it honors the Master with a full house, this congregation must get a vision of every seat filled.

MAKE A GREAT EFFORT

The servant went again and again until he filled the house with guests. It was a hot job. Tiring. Often thankless. But he filled it with hard work and determined effort.

There is no substitute for hard work. Churches are drying up on the vine because they are looking for a program that will produce results without work. This I know. Laziness will be the death of us!

If ever it honors the Master with a full house, this congregation must pay the price in hard work.

GIVE A GREAT WELCOME

None of the folks who filled the banquet hall ever imagined they would one day be guests in the house on the hill. They were the outcasts and untouchables, the low class and the no-class. They never felt welcome or wanted in the master’s house. And they never would have come to the table had not the servant gone out to persuade them that they welcome and wanted in the master’s house and at his table.

There are people who sit in the shadow of this church house but not in its pews because they feel unloved, unwanted, and unwelcome here. They will never fill the empty seats in this house unless God’s servants go out and convince them they are loved and wanted and welcome here.

If ever it honors the Master with a full house, this congregation must go out to the community with a warm and rich welcome.