



Invitation - 29th January 2023

Main Passage:

- Luke 14:15-24 - The Parable of the Great Banquet
 - Note how the passage starts and ends with the Kingdom of God. In response to the guest who says "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the Kingdom of God", Jesus tells the story which makes it clear that only those who accept the specific invitation will eat at the banquet. With Romans 10:9-12 in mind, this seems like a story to prod the Jewish guests at the meal.

Additional Scriptures:

- Romans 10
 - v:9-12 - God's invitation is universal:
 - "everyone", "all", "anyone"
 - v13-15 - There's just one qualification (v13)
 - 'how can they come without an invitation?' (paraphrase)

⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. - **1 Peter 4:8-10**

Questions for Reflection & Discussion:

- Peter calls on the Church to "love each other deeply" - what does that look like in the context of inviting others to join us?
- What does Peter mean by "love covers a multitude of sins"?
- What can we learn from Peter's call that we are to serve others "as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"?

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

- What stepping stones did you take to move you toward God?
- How long was that process?
- How many interactions did it take?

Engel Scale [\[see appendix\]](#)

*"The "Engel Scale" originates with James F Engel, from the book *What's gone wrong with the harvest?*, published by Zondervan in 1975. The insight into evangelism that is generally drawn from the Engel scale is that all people go on a journey or process on their way to conversion and then on into discipleship.*

There are multiple different phrases people have used to describe each stage or number in the process.

*A strength of the Engel scale is that it helps us to realise that our approach to evangelism can be informed by and adapted to how much understanding or interest a person has in the Christian faith. Consequently, if we can try to gauge where a person is on the scale it becomes possible to contextualise our conversation or message in a way that will hopefully be more effective." - **Source: Evangelical Alliance***

Questions for Reflection & Discussion:

- Where are you on the Engel Scale now? (honestly)
- With less cultural/societal awareness of and exposure to Christianity, it is argued that people start much further down the Engel scale now than they did a generation ago. Would you agree?
- If that's true, what are the implications for us as Christians?

*"You are only responsible for making an invitation and doing it well, you are not responsible for the way a person responds to your invitation." - **Ricky Rew***

Appendix: The Engel Scale

