

The Banquet of our whole selves...

...is the banquet of all humanity.

a meditation with Luke 14:7-14



Read Luke 14:7-14

To enter into the spirit of this parable, think of the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind in your inner world and bring them to the banquet.

If this seems to you a strange suggestion, approach it like this:

Think of the different selves you can be in different situation, the wisecracker, the show-off, the joker, the creep, the know-all, the caring pastor, the masterful leader, the timid wallflower, the helpless child, or whatever;

Think also of the different selves that you sometimes feel yourself to be underneath these masks, ignorant, rejected, disapproved of, unloved, clumsy, angry, sad, frightened, worthless, clever, powerful, competitive, etc.

Make a provisional list of all the different selves you are aware of in your character and within yourself, and write brief thumbnail sketches of each one - if you like, draw each one. Let yourself be aware of how you feel about each of these.

You don't need to cover every one you are aware of - perhaps just focus on three or four that feel most significant.

Then close your eyes and picture a large and welcoming room with a table laid for many guests.

In an ante-room, carpeted, comfortable, and similarly inviting, Jesus, who is hosting this little banquet, is ready to receive the guests.

Bring to him one by one, each of your many selves, all of them, but especially the ones you disapprove of or dislike or are ashamed of, and introduce them to him one at a time.

Watch how he receives each one, what he does, and what he says: and let him take each one through to the other room and give them a place at the table.

Finish by having a conversation with Jesus about what happened and how you feel about it.