

# TakeFive

## The Banquet Feast

Biblical insights for the week of **October 8–12, 2018**

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### Monday — Ephesians 4:2

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We often feel the need to prove to others that we are worthy of what we have. Whether it's social status, material possessions, or relationships, we try to use what we have to convince others that we measure up; that we deserve it. But Jesus calls us instead to use our position and our possessions to lift others up, to empower, to comfort, and to bring people to God. So, what would happen if we decided to spend our lives humbly encouraging others instead of pridefully proving ourselves to them?

### Tuesday — Matthew 25:40

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“Why should I do something for those who can't do anything for me in return?” It's so tempting for us to go through life primarily helping those who can, in turn, help us. However, Jesus calls us to use our resources to help those who can do nothing for us. He set the example when He died for us knowing we could never do anything to pay Him back. When we embrace Jesus' example and experience the Holy Spirit's work in us, we are empowered to use our blessings to give to others, especially those who cannot do anything for us in return.

### Wednesday — Matthew 5:46–48

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Before we can welcome those around us, we have to first realize how God has welcomed us: with unconditional love and grace. Yet, we may feel that God should let us into His family because of the good things we've done; it helps us feel like we're really in control. However, the truth of the Gospel is that God has welcomed us despite what we have done or have not done. In a similar way, we are called to welcome those who we feel may not be 'deserving' of our time or energy. Every time we graciously invite others into our lives and our spaces, we are reflecting the welcoming character of God.

## Thursday — Galatians 3:26–28

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The tragedy of this story is that the guests invited first did not value the host or his invitation and missed out on a fantastic party. The beautiful part of this story is that the host pursued and invited the marginalized people who rarely get invited anywhere and they were blessed to be included. Think about how different it would have been if the man had decided not to invite all of the ‘outcasts;’ all who came would have missed an incredible experience. Is there someone you would not typically hang out with that God has been prompting you to invite to coffee, to your home, to your small group, or to church?

## Friday — Matthew 5:13–16

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When the man in this story decided that he was going to invite people into his home, he wasn't just inviting them into a physical place, but also to a shared experience. He was offering up his home as a way to build relationships with people, even to those who he would rather not spend time with. Jesus calls us to be light and salt in this world and for that to happen, we need to engage with others around us. Choosing to share the blessing of our homes with others provides an opportunity to build relationships that honor God and serve others.