THE PARABLE OF THE GREAT BANQUET  
Luke 14:15-24

MAIN THOUGHT  False confidence

THE RUSE (1-5).

THE RED HERRING (1). The Pharisees, who were self-righteous, gave Jesus an opportunity to condemn Pilate for his murderous acts and the Galileans who were looked down upon for their mixed racial heritage, lax religious practices, and country accent of the Hebrew language (Matt. 26:73).

THE TEACHABLE MOMENT (2-5).

THE GALILEAN TRAGEDY (2-3).
• These Galileans had come to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices. Like later rebels Theudas and Judas of Galilee (Acts 5:36-37), these may have been murdered for insurrection against Pilate.
• Jesus let it be known that they were not worse than anyone else for all are sinners in need of repentance (Rom 3:10, 23). Nor did he condemn Pilate for his actions. He condemned all.

THE TOWER TRAGEDY (4-5).
• The eighteen who died in the recent Tower of Siloam collapse were not guilty of more sin or being judged by God. Like Job and the man born blind (John 9:1-3), it was not divine retribution but for the glory of God. The rain falls on the just and unjust (Matt. 5:45).
• All are subject to death and therefore must repent. Even the Pharisees.

THE BARREN FIG TREE (6-9).

THE OWNER – GOD. He planted Israel as a vineyard (Isa. 5:1-7).

THE FIG TREE – ISRAEL.
• Israel was a tree planted by God to produce fruit (Jer. 12:2; 17:8).
• We know that Israel was “cut off” leaving a stump into which wild branches were grafted – the church (Rom. 11:19-21).

THE GARDNER – CHRIST
• After three years of bareness, the owner proposed chopping it down for it was just taking up space. But the gardener asked for one more year to nurture and enrich it for every possible chance of good fruit (John 15:2).
• God is patient not wanting any to perish (2 Pet. 3:9-10). He did wait 38 more years until Jerusalem was destroyed (AD 70) for they did not repent (Matt. 3:7-10). Before God judges, he always warns and gives people adequate time to repent in the examples of Noah and Lot (2 Pet. 2:5-9).
• Do not just occupy space, produce fruit in keeping of repentance (Luke 3:8).