



*Written by  
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## **The Parable of “The Great Banquet”**

**Scripture:** Luke 14: 16-24

**Dramatic Category:** Christian Mime Theater

### **What is "Christian Mime Theater"?**

During the “voice over” reading of the scripture, people come to life in various light pools across the stage. The people represent modern enactments of the timeless Word of God, which is being heard by the audience. For example, in the “Parable of the Great Banquet” in Luke 14, the actors reject the king’s invitation to the great banquet because they are admiring their new car during the reading of the scripture, “I have purchased a set of oxen, and I must go try them out. Please consider me excused.” The potential for staging these animated scripture readings is endless; all it takes is imagination to transport the messages from yesterday into today.

"Christian Mime Theater" provides very memorable introductions, conclusions, or midway examples for the pastor as he presents the sermon.

This form has the same qualities as the "Skermion," which gives your drama ministry a firsthand opportunity to creatively translate scripture into visual pictures. This is a very effective way to present the "scripture reading" in your service, or link with the pastor to create a sermon illustration that will compliment any topical or expository sermon.

**Topic:** Responding to God’s invitation

**Performance Time:** 5 minutes

**Number of Players:** 18 players (*8 men, 10 women*)

### **Objective:**

This parable makes the point that those who accept the invitation of God to join His supper (life) become the children of God, but not all who are invited, will accept His invitation.

## Synopsis:

This “Christian Mime Theater” skit portrays the "Parable of the Great Banquet." It puts into a modern context, those who respond to the invitation of Jesus, the host.

Those who don't accept the invitation are those who “bought a plot of land," portrayed by a young couple who are building a new house; or "who just bought oxen," portrayed by a woman who bought a new car; or "got married," portrayed by a newly married couple. These people simply refuse the invitations when they come.

Those who accept the invitation to enjoy the bounty of his banquet, (God's love and forgiveness), are the sick, the poor, those in the hedges (working class), and those on the highways (motor cyclists), who look pretty tough, but celebrate the privilege of being invited to the King's fine banquet.

## Cast:

Master: Roger

Servant: Kari

### *Those who reject the invitation*

People building a home: Jim, Andi, and Mark (contractor)

People with a new car: Tracy & Mike

Loving couple: Lori & Rob

### *Those who accept the invitation*

Blind and crippled: Jane & Linda

Homeless: Frank & Donna

Hedge people: Fran, Daniel, and Renee (workers at a burger place)

Highway people: Jack & Becky (motorcyclists, dressed in leathers)

## NOTE:

The names of the players are used throughout the script for clarity only. Feel free to use your own players' real names.

## Props:

9 invitations

Rolled up house plans that are unrolled

A steering wheel tied to a music stand, representing the car

A cane for the blind person

Blankets, bags for the homeless people

Burger place hats

2 pancake turners

A motorcycle parked on stage, if possible

**Lighting Note:**

If possible, 8 distinct pools of light alternate on an otherwise dark stage; however this mime skit is very effective without lighting effects.

*If you can't provide 8 distinct light pools, be sure that the rest of the characters freeze, so that the audience's attention is only on the moving mimes (non-speaking actors).*

**Sound:**

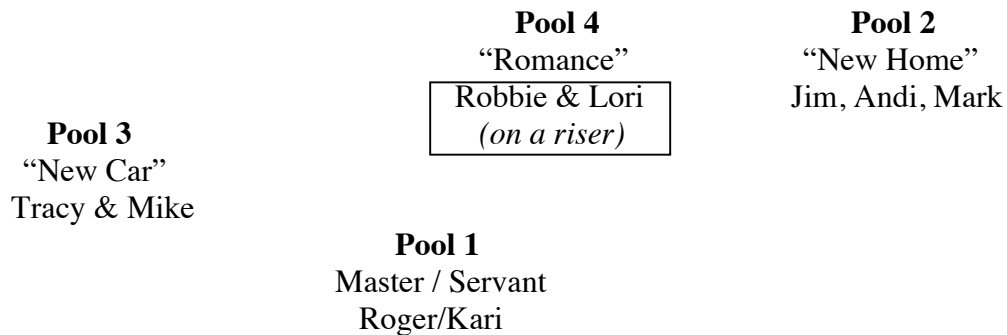
Voice over reading of the scripture with light pools going on and off according to the following suggested numbers.

**Music:**

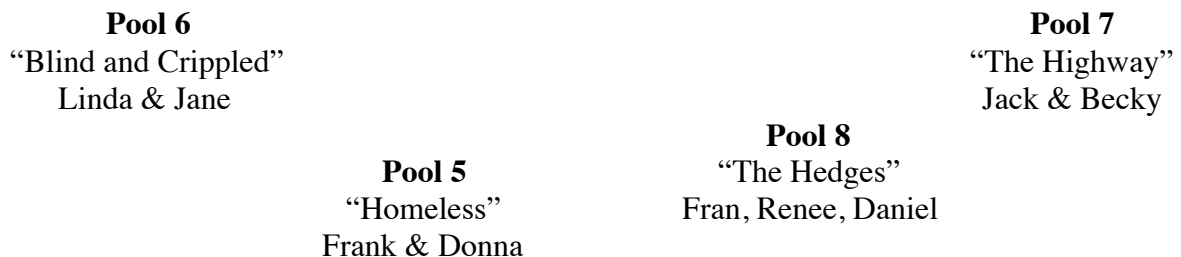
Lively music that turns up and down in volume according to the script.

**Stage Arrangement:**

The three distractions on the stage:



Four categories of honored guests on the steps:



## The Script:

### NOTE:

If you can't provide 8 distinct light pools, be sure that the rest of the characters freeze, so that the audience's attention is only on the character(s) being talked about, as they "come to life."

### LIGHTS: UP ON POOL 1

**Narrator:** A certain man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many;

*(licks invitations )*

and at the dinner hour he sent his servant to say

*(hands them to Kari, the servant)*

to those who had been invited,

### MUSIC: UP & LIVELY

### LIGHTS: UP ON POOL 2, OUT ON POOL 1

*(Kari approaches Jim & Andi, and Mark, their contractor.)*

**Narrator:** "Come; for everything is ready now."

But they all alike began to make excuses.

The first one said to him,

"I have bought a piece of land, and I need to go out and look at it;

*(waves the servant off as Jim & Andi study Mark's house plans.)*

please consider me excused."

### MUSIC: WILTS

### LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 2, UP ON POOL 3

**Narrator:** And another one said,

### MUSIC: UP & LIVELY

*(Kari approaches Tracy showing off her car. Mike sits on a chair, pretending that he is in the driver's seat.)*

**Narrator:** "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out;

*(waves the servant off)*

please consider me excused."

**MUSIC: WILTS**

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 3, UP ON POOL 4**

**Narrator:** And another one said,

**MUSIC: UP & LIVELY**

**Narrator:** “I have married a wife,

*(Kari approaches Lori & Rob who have eyes only for each other. Rob waves Kari off)*

and for that reason I cannot come.”

**MUSIC: WILTS & STOPS**

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 4, UP ON POOL 1**

**Narrator:** And the servant came back and reported this to her master.

*(Kari goes back to report to her master by mimicking the couple with the house plans, the couple with the new car, and the married couple.)*

Then the head of the household became angry

and said to his slave,

“Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here

*(Roger points in the direction of the people gathered at the steps.)*

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 1, UP ON POOL 5**

**Narrator:** the poor

*(Kari approaches Frank & Donna, gives them each an invitation, and points them in the direction of the Master. They eagerly turn and take a few steps toward him. They do not go all the way to the Master. This is just a suggestion that they would go to him, and then they freeze.)*

**MUSIC: UP & LIVELY, THEN DOWN & UNDER**

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 5, UP ON POOL 6**

**Narrator:** and crippled and blind and lame.”

*(Kari goes then to Linda & Jane, hands them each an invitation, they turn and face the host and take a few steps toward him.)*

**MUSIC: UP & LIVELY, THEN DOWN & UNDER**

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 6, UP ON POOL 1**

**Narrator:** And the slave said,

*(Kari returns to the master)*

**Narrator:** “Master, what you commanded has been done,  
and still there is room.”

And the master said to the servant  
“Go out into...

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 1, UP ON POOL 7**

**Narrator:** the highways

**MUSIC: UP & LIVELY, THEN DOWN & UNDER**

**Narrator:** and along the hedges,  
and compel them to come in,  
that my house may be filled.

*(Kari goes to Jack & Becky; at first she is afraid of their rough exteriors, but she hands them an invitation; they accept it and respond to her invitation by getting off the bike and taking a few steps toward the Master, and then they freeze. They represent those on the highways.)*

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 7, UP ON POOL 8**

*(Renee & Daniel are flipping burgers under Fran’s supervision; they eagerly accept Kari’s invitations, then Kari motions toward the Master. They turn toward the Master, take a few steps and freeze. They represent the working class and the people of the street.)*

**MUSIC: UP & LIVELY, THEN DOWN & UNDER**

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 8, UP ON POOLS 2, 3, 4**

**Narrator:** For I tell you, none of those who were invited shall taste of my dinner.”

*(Those who love their car, love their house, and the lovers turn their bodies away from the Master.)*

**LIGHTS: BLACK OUT**

## Sermon Options

### Sermon Option 1: A “Skerman” (*skit and sermon combined*)

All the players remain on stage.  
The pastor steps onto the stage.  
The light pools divide into those who accept and those who reject.

#### **LIGHTS: FADE UP ON SERMON LIGHT, UP ON POOL 1**

The pastor introduces the concept of spiritual gifts.  
He explains that God delights in helping His people who earnestly serve Him.  
All players freeze in position.

#### **LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 1, FADE UP ON POOLS 2, 3, 4**

The pastor steps into the light pools of those who reject the invitation.  
The players freeze in position.  
He expounds on the kinds of people who reject God's invitation.

#### **LIGHTS: OUT ON POOLS 2, 3, 4 FADE UP ON POOLS 5, 6, 7, 8**

The pastor steps into the light pools of those who accept the invitation.  
The players freeze in position.  
He expounds on the kinds of people who accept God's invitation.

#### **LIGHTS: BLACK OUT, UP ON SERMON LIGHT**

The players exit from the stage during the black out.  
The pastor finishes his sermon without any of the players on stage.

### Sermon Option 2:

The players exit the stage after skit ends.  
The pastor steps onto the stage and expounds on the gifts with none of the players on stage.