



What Is the Message of These Mystery Dinner Scripts?

"There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his

food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

"Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."

Do you recall this story? It's the story that Nathan told David in II Samuel 12:1-4 after David had sinned by taking Bathsheba and then having her husband, Uriah, killed.

Do you remember how David reacted to this short story? II Samuel 12:5-7 tells us:

David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this deserves to die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."

Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man!" . . .

Nathan didn't walk up to David and preach a sermon or immediately pour out accusations. First, he told David a simple story to help him recognize the evil of his sin. God used this story to cause David to realize how God and others perceived what he thought he had done in secret.

In the New Testament, Jesus uses stories about money, pearls, run-aways, soil, judges, rulers, and more to teach the crowds. These stories are called parables. And those who have ears to hear learn from these stories still today.

The point of these mystery dinner scripts is similar. The stories are not from the Bible and they do not preach about salvation. They are stories that do not have any type of obvious or heavy message. The focus revolves around working together to build and then solve a mystery.

These events are clean, family fun and entertainment where people can invite friends from the community to come and fellowship together. It's a fellowship where the crowd doesn't just simply sit and watch. They laugh together, eat together, and strategize with one another. Friendships are built and memories are created.

Then towards the end of the evening, materials are provided for you to share with those in attendance. These handouts help the crowd dig deeper by relating a concept from the story that evening to their story and their need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Plus, not only is the event great for those in attendance, there is a tremendous bond that is built among cast members and crew as people are able to share their God-given gifts and talents.

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:13 (NAS)

Blessings to you,

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