

## **Luke Fourteen**

### **Luke 14:1-6**

And it came about when He went into the house of one of the leaders of the Pharisees on the Sabbath to eat bread, that they were watching Him closely. And there, in front of Him was a certain man suffering from dropsy. And Jesus answered and spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” But they kept silent. And He took hold of him, and healed him, and sent him away. And He said to them, “Which one of you shall have a son or an ox fall into a well, and will not immediately pull him out on a Sabbath day?” And they could make no reply to this.

- Verses 1-24 all have to do with banquets and feasts
- Jesus always regarded the Kingdom in these terms and uses meals to teach concerning them
- In the gospel stories—there are 7 incidents when Jesus heals on the Sabbath
- Orthodox Jews of this time regarded Jesus as a lawbreaker
- Pharisees were watching Him closely—perhaps man with dropsy was a set-up
- Watching=sinister espionage (Jesus was under their scrutiny)
- Jesus is frequent recipient of hospitality
- Dropsy=edema=when fluids collect in body and cause swelling—can be terminal if prolonged

### **Luke 14:7-11**

And He began speaking a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor at the table; saying to them, “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, and he who invited you both shall come and say to you, ‘Give place to this man,’ and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place. “But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’;

then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. “For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted.”

- This parable sounds more like advice—than parable. Look for deeper meaning.
- We are not to promote self in the presence of God.
- God does not choose the well-off and legally trained
- Humility required in our spiritual responses—real stature is not from self-importance
- The way of exaltation or greatness is through humility

#### **Luke 14:12-15**

And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and repayment come to you. “But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

And when one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, “Blessed is everyone who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!”

- Wrong reasons for generosity—duty/self-interest/investment—to display superiority
- If we give to receive reward—it is for our own sake
- Real giving flows from love
- Jews were use to giving to get—Jesus instructs concerning hospitality for the sake of the other

#### **Luke 14:16-24**

But He said to him, “A certain man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘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; please consider me excused.' "And another one said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.' "And another one said, 'I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.' "And the slave came back and reported this to his master. 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 the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' "And the slave said, 'Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' "And the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 'For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.'"

- Feast in God's kingdom—found in Is 25:6-8
- Leaders of Israel were indeed the first to be invited to respond to God's invitation
- Lamentations 4:2
- Behind their excuses was a lack of desire
- Man represents God
- Original guests—Jews
- The poor called in—the tax gatherers/ sinners who responded to Christ
- First man—distracted by business
- Second man—distracted by his possessions
- Third man—distracted by his family (perhaps had Deut 24:5 in mind)
- Jesus continually calls the disenfranchised to partake of His Kingdom (it is freely offered—not earned)
- Compel=anagkason=does not mean 'by force or violence'
- Compel them to come in—became the justification for the Inquisition/Crusades
- Luke 1:53—the hungry are being filled with good things

- If we are excluded from Kingdom of God—it is because we have refused His invitation and terms for coming

### **Luke 14:25-27**

Now great multitudes were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

- Those who followed Christ were not on a journey toward worldly power and glory
- Must count the cost to claim discipleship
- Cost of following is so great—it cannot be accomplished through human effort
- His own cross—not cross of Jesus—but your own death to self. The cross is the place for emptying self
- Hating—detachment from
- Discipleship means giving ones' first loyalty to the kingdom
- What shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life
- What Christ asks us to leave behind is all that would hinder forward movement

### **Luke 14:28-30**

“For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? “Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’

- There is shame/disgrace for one who begins to build but cannot finish
- Builder of tower is free to choose—to build or no build

**Luke 14:31-35**

“

Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? “Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks terms of peace. “So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. “Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? “It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

- When king is being invaded—he must respond. He must sit down and reckon if he can refuse the demands of the opposing kingdom.
- When something loses its essential quality and fails to perform its' essential duty—it is unfit—should be thrown out
- Salt is used as symbol of Christian life
- Salt was a preservative—earliest use in ancient times
- True Christianity is given to disrupt corruption of sin in the world
- As the Church—we must stand against evil and for the good without fear of man
- Salt is a flavoring—we bring life to what we are involved with
- Are we will suffer loss—pay the price to follow?



**Discuss:**

- 1) What are some of the ways in our culture that we show honor to someone?
  
- 2) What are some ways in the Church that we display honor to one another?
  
- 3) Discuss some practical ways the Church could act on Luke 14:12-15?
  
- 4) How is honor in the Kingdom of God different from honor in the Kingdom of the world?
  
- 5) Why do the verses about salt fit in this chapter? (Luke 14:34-35)

**Point of Prayer:**

Pray about any hindrances you face in your journey with Jesus.

**Integrate:**

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

**Application:**

- 1) Have you had the opportunity to humble yourself this week? Explain.
  
- 2) Share a situation when you were greatly honored.

- 3) Share a situation when you experienced shame or humiliation.
  
- 4) When has following Jesus been costly for you?
  
- 5) Have you ever started a project you were unable to finish? What happened?
  
- 6) Who has modeled Biblical humility for you?
  
- 7) When is it most difficult to respond with humility in a situation?
  
- 8) How have you put Luke 14:33 into practice?