

Luke 14

Luke 14.1-6

V1 – Setting for the meal? Probably in Perea at the home of a Pharisee (on the Sabbath)

- Why would they have been watching Jesus closely?** To see if he would violate the Sabbath
- This was a key point in charges against Jesus

V2 – This sick man seems to have been intentionally planted in front of Jesus by the Pharisees to see if he would violate the Sabbath

-It was to be a test of Jesus

-**Dropsy?** The accumulation of fluids in the body, due to a diseased heart and kidneys (*Zondervan Bible Encyclopedia*, II, 134)

V3 – Why did Jesus ask the question before performing the miracle?

-If "yes," then there would be more charges against him

-If "no," he might not do a miracle (no evidence against him)

V4 – Why did they remain silent? They were cowards

V5 – Their inconsistent doctrine - they would save a son, a donkey, or an ox, but he was not supposed to heal a man on the Sabbath

Luke 14.7-15

V7 – What did Jesus notice about the guests? They were choosing places of honor as seats

-**Do we see this much today?** Yes, at state banquets, weddings, and other occasions

-**Any other applications?** Special titles: Dr., Prof., Rev., Right Rev., Pastor, Cardinal, Bishop, Pope

V8-9 – What is dangerous about sitting in a place of honor? The host might have planned on having someone else sit there and the first person would have to move (very embarrassing)

-**Why would the person then have to take the last seat?** All the other places would have been taken

V10 – What did Jesus recommend? To take the last place

-**Reason?** If the host wants to honor us, let him move us up to a better seat

V11 – The moral of this passage? Humility is the way to success, not pride (just the opposite of the attitude of the world)

V12-13 – What instructions did Jesus have about who to invite? Invite the ones who cannot repay us

-Here is a great principle for church work: have a meal and invite the widows, the widowers, those whose family members might not be Christians, the poor, etc.

-**Basically whom we are to invite?** The ones who cannot repay us for the meal

V 14 – When will we be repaid for such acts? In the resurrection

-Remember *Matt. 25* and the scene for the Day of Judgment (helping the poor, the hungry, the lonely, the prisoners, those without sufficient clothing, etc.)

V 15 – A sincere heart had been moved by the words of our Lord

Luke 14.16-24 – The Parable of the Dinner

V 16 – This seems to be in response to *v 15*

-Who is "the certain man"? God

-What is the "big dinner"? The kingdom (church)

V 17 – The slave? Prophets, John the Baptist, Jesus himself

V 18 – First excuse? He had to look at land he had just bought

-Was this a legitimate excuse? No, we would always look at a piece of land before we buy it

V 19 – The second excuse? He had to try out the oxen he had just bought

-Was this a legitimate excuse? No, we would always try out the oxen (or a car) before buying them

V 20 – The third excuse? Just got married

-Was coming to the feast going to destroy the marriage? Of course not

V 21 – Why was the master angry? These were all flimsy excuses

-New orders? Bring everyone in

V 22-23 – There was still room – more were urged to attend

-The new guests? The Gentiles (a theme of *Luke*)

V 24 – There were blessings for the Gentiles

Luke 14.25-35 – "Counting the Cost"

V 25 – "Great multitudes" were following him

-What would this do to the average man? Inflate his ego

V 26 – What kind of speech would the average man have delivered? One to hold these people to his agenda

-Examples? Easy requirements, things the people wanted to hear, flattery

-Instead, what did Jesus speak about? The cost of discipleship

-Did Jesus use the word "hate" in a literal sense? No, "hate" is to be taken in a comparative sense

-Read *Matt. 10.37* – to love less

-We choose Christ over our parents (thus "hate" them)

-*Eph. 6.2* – We are to honor our father and mother

-In other words, all other loyalties are subservient to our loyalty to Christ

-Jesus often used startling words to make a point ("pluck out your eye," etc.)

V 27 – The cross here? The conflict between Jesus and our relatives

- "His own cross" – **Is the cross the same with every person?** No, we all have different burdens to bear and different things we have to give up to follow Christ

V 28 – What do we do when we build a tower? We count the cost before we start

V 29-30 – Otherwise, what might happen? We might be unable to complete the project

V 31-32 - Another example? A king prepares for battle

V 33 – In what sense do we give up all our possessions? We turn all over to God for his use

V 34 – What is "tasteless salt" a reference to? Disciples who are not willing to pay the cost

-It is useless to claim to be Christians, but not be willing to pay the costs

-Example: Do we attend all the services of the local congregation? Do we give liberally of our means on the first day of every week? Do we support various other activities of the church?

V 35 – "Tasteless salt" is worthless (salt doesn't have much value if it has lost its taste)

-**The message?** It takes a great effort to be a disciple of Christ

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