

Luke Chapter 14

V: 1 This is the 3rd time that Jesus has dined in the house of a Pharisee as described by Luke. (Pharisees - explain, Sadducees, Scribes, Sanhedrin)

- **Ch. 7 at Simon's house:** where he was anointed by a harlot who gets forgiven, sadly all Simon gets is a rebuke for his lack of hospitality and love.
- Then in **Ch. 11:37** he responds to the invitation, but doesn't go through the ceremonial washing before the meal and ends up in a heated discussion which ends with Jesus declaring them to be fools and pronouncing "woe's" unto them.
- Undaunted, Jesus went into the house of one of the "rulers of the Pharisees" / chief Pharisees" – on the Sabbath, and they (a group of the Pharisees) were watching Him to see what He would do – another set up. (PSTHU) Pharisaical Special Tactics & Heresy Unit)
- There is an old saying that says "if you're looking for fault you're almost certain to find it", unless of course if you're looking at Jesus who is faultless.

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin;..."

- There is no sin, no fault, no blemish in Him, no spot or wrinkle, Jesus truly is perfect. None the less, they are watching Him closely.

Psalm 37:32 "The wicked watches the righteous, and seeks to slay him."

V: 2 Jesus wasn't there by accident, and neither was the poor man with "dropsy." They only invited this poor man as bait for Jesus.

- Why would Jesus accept this or any invitation knowing they they were just looking for a fight?

1 Corinthians 9:19, 22 "19For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more." - "22... I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

- As hardened and antagonistic as they are Jesus is not giving up on them!
(Sadducees?)

Dropsy: Edema, a disease with fluid retention and swelling. Dropsy is a symptom of disease of the heart, liver, and kidneys. This condition involves the accumulation of fluid in the body cavities or in the limbs. In those days it was fatal; this passage describes a man whose face, arms and legs were swollen

V: 3 Jesus spoke to the Scribes and Pharisees who were present, knowing what they were thinking – asking them: is it lawful? May as well just throw the gauntlet down now and get it over with!

- He asks them the same question by the way that they asked of Him regarding the man with the withered arm.

Matthew 12:10 “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath.”

- According to their interpretation of the Law it was unlawful to heal on the Sabbath day, they could take only the minimal life saving measures to prevent a death, if someone was bleeding to death you could place a tourniquet upon them, but you couldn't do anything towards their continuing healing, no salve, no washing, no splints etc. until the Sabbath had passed. (Could you imagine if the ER was closed on Sundays?!)
- They forgot or didn't get the lesson from Matthew 12:10 & the previous chapter: **Luke 13:10-17** Bent woman, 18 yrs, - adversaries put to shame...
- They had set a trap for Jesus, but He would turn it around – again to reveal their hypocrisy.
- Jesus had already violated their interpretation of the Sabbath on 7 different occasions. Why they would again set this trap is un-known, but like all the other times, it backfires on them as He points out their hypocrisy regarding their own animals.

V: 4-6 They held their peace because they knew the answer but didn't want to admit it. It would be pretty difficult to see a man dying there and to say no it's not lawful – so they kept silent.

Galatians 6:10 “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

- But Jesus knowing their thoughts asked them which of them wouldn't get their animal out of a pit on the Sabbath day?
- The same line of reasoning as the last Sabbath healing, isn't a man worth more than a donkey or an ox? (Our Govt. / society doesn't know to answer that question).
- Man is made in the image of God; which should be a reminder.

1 John 4:20 “If a man says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar: for he who does not love his brother who he has seen, how can he love God who he has not seen?”

- Jesus isn't nullifying the Law, or violating the Law – He's saying let's interpret it correctly:

Paul said:

1 Timothy 1:8 “But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully;”

Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

God's purpose for the Law:

Galatians 3:24 “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

- They “couldn't” or wouldn't answer Jesus, they were put to silence.

John 13:34-35 “³⁴A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another.”

- It's not our rules & regulations that draw people, it's not our spirituality or religion that impacts people, its our love, our compassion, our desire to help those in need that ministers to people and draws people.

“⁴... *healed him and let him go.*” This man was healed and set free! (Shanghai'd)

John 8:36 “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

V: 7-11 Parable: a fictional story that people can relate to that reveals a Biblical truth.

- This started out with the Scribes & Pharisees watching Jesus; again He turns the tables – now it's apparent that He's been watching them, observing.
- Invited to the banquet, like the wedding feast – the Scribes and Pharisees were all jockeying for position, seeking the best seats.

Matthew 19:30 “But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.”

- When you're invited, take one of the lower, less desirable seats, it's better to be elevated by the master than to be humbled and demoted.

James 4:10 “Humble your selves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up.”

Philippians 2:3 “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves.”

V: 12-14 Jesus turns to His host, the Chief Pharisee in who's house He's eating:

- Don't just invite your friends and family that will or can reciprocate; instead or also invite the poor, the crippled, lame, and blind – there will be a blessing in it at the resurrection of the just.

Matthew 6:20 “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break through and steal.”

- Jesus is leaving the door open for their salvation. Resurrection of the just.

2 Peter 3:9 God is “... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

It matters to God how we treat people:

James 2:1-5 “¹My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. (Respect of persons) ²For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, ³and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” ⁴have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brethren: has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?”

- Jesus makes mention of the “*resurrection of the just.*” (2 resurrections)

Daniel 12:1-2 “¹At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

John 5:28-29 “²⁸Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹and come forth - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of damnation.”

Acts 24:15 **Revelation 20:11-15** (Turn to)

V: 15-24 Someone said: “Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.” That is true, but who are those who will eat that bread in the kingdom of God?

- This was a retort by one of the Pharisees to what Jesus had just spoken: along the lines of we don't need your blessing from V: 14 because we're going to enjoy the blessing of heaven – because we're the chosen race.

- So Jesus then shares this parable: A man made a great feast and those that were invited, bidden to come would not, having various excuses.
- **Property - possession - relationships**
 1. Who buys property sight unseen? Does he really need to go and see it again? No, this is just an excuse not to go to the dinner.
 2. No one buys oxen, or a car without a careful look, this too is again just an excuse.
 3. The wife? This one goes back to the Garden of Eden... it's the woman, she won't let me, another lame excuse.
- Upon being rejected by those who were invited, the Master of the house was wroth / angry and sent his servant out to bring in those who weren't initially the first to be invited.
- The poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind – in essence, us, the same ones that Jesus just told the Pharisee to invite to his next feast. (Matt. 5:3 poor in spirit)
- The poor, maimed, lame, and blind aren't as easily distracted or side tracked by the things of the world. All their excuses add up to what we're warned against.

1 John 2:15-17 “¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides forever.”

V: 22 “... yet there is room” – there is still time! Jesus beckons you!

Matthew 11:28-30 “²⁸Come unto Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

V: 24 Application: The Master is still hopeful, still looking for guests to enjoy the feast, yet those who rejected the invitation will not be allowed to partake.

- This is describing the marriage feast of the Lamb. Describing how those that were bidden, the Jewish people at that time to whom the gospel was first given, how they have rejected the invitation and have offered their lame excuses for not receiving Jesus as the Messiah. Now because the Jews rejected the Gospel, the invitation is extended to the Gentiles, so the servant went out to the highways and byways and compelled anyone and everyone to come into the feast.

Isaiah 42:6-7 “⁶I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the

Gentiles, ⁷to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.”

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

- The Gospel went first to the Jews and was rejected, now it's gone to the Gentiles and was accepted, thus we have the church, as the church is removed, the Gospel will come once again come back to the Jews.

Matthew 19:30 “But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.”

Romans 11:26 “And so all Israel will be saved...”

- God is not done with Israel. There is a symbiotic relationship between Israel and the church, and the church and Israel.

1 John 2:2 “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” (Jew & Gentile alike!!)

V: 25-26 Great crowds are following Jesus to Jerusalem.

- In our minds “hate” and “love” are opposite extremes; but to the eastern mindset these are comparative words, not necessarily opposite words.

Matthew 5:44 “But I say unto you, Love your enemies....”

John 13:34 “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another...”

Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands love your wives...”

- Jesus is not saying that if we want to follow Him we must hate our family, especially after telling us we're to love everyone.
- The idea here is comparative, that our love for Jesus must by comparison so greatly surpass our love for husband, wife, kids, so much that our love for them looks like hatred in comparison.
- Jesus is saying if any man comes to me – you must love Me supremely! More than father, mother, wife, children, other family.

Matthew 22:37 “... you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

- Our love for Him has to be first and foremost so that if it brings you at odds with your family, wives, husbands and so on, then we have to choose Jesus.
- If it comes to that kind of decision, if your wife or girlfriend says I'm not going to live with you any longer if your going to be a Christian and follow these things – then your love for Jesus has to exceed your love for that person. If your non believing husband says I can't stand that religious stuff anymore and if you keep it up then I'm leaving – let him leave

1 Corinthians 7:15 “But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases...”

- Jesus is saying that our love for Him must be supreme, that it must greatly exceed the love we have for our spouses, kids, property, possessions, or relationships.
- Jesus isn't looking necessarily to drive people away, He's calling them, and us, to count the cost, to make a reasoned decision (commitment) for Christ.

V: 27 Jesus wouldn't deny the cross, and if we're going to follow Him – we can't deny it either, we must take it up and follow Him.

- Bearing our cross isn't our mother in law, or our aches and pains in life, or some other malady.
- The cross represented Jesus' total submission to the will of the Father.

In the Garden of Eden Jesus prayed:

Matthew 26:39 “... O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as You will.”

- Jesus would have us to bear the same cross, our cross is to be completely submitted to the will of the Father, to surrender our will, whatever that is in our lives.

Mark 8:34 “And when He had called the people unto Him with His disciples also, He said unto them, whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

Not just self denial, but complete denial of self – it is the understanding that “I can't do it” – I need Jesus!

Psalm 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, these, O God, You will not despise.”

V: 28-32 This is not a “seeker friendly” message Jesus is almost dissuading the crowd, forcing them to think about what they are doing and why they are doing it.

- Count the cost! Think it through.

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD, though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; they they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

V: 33 All of this to say – the Gospel is free, but it will cost you everything you have.

- We have to love Jesus more than anyone else, or anything else – our property, our possessions, and our relationships; we must value Him above all things.

We need to have the right priorities:

Matthew 6:33 “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.”

V: 34-35 Salt is good; it preserves, it purifies, it makes you thirsty – Jesus is being salt to the crowd, seasoning their enthusiasm with a healthy dose of reality.

Matthew 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth: but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.”

- **Salt:** preserves. Jesus is saying that the church should be a preserving influence in our community. Un-refrigerated meat begins to rot very quickly, the world is a rotten place, the church is called to be a preserving influence in the world.
- **Salt:** adds flavor, as Christians we should be adding flavor, we should be enhancing the world around us, being a good influence.
- **Salt:** makes us thirsty, as Christians we should be making others thirsty for Jesus.

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

- If salt loses its savor or saltiness then it is good for nothing.
- He that has ears to hear let him hear!

Psalm 119:18 “Open Thou My eyes, that I may behold wondrous things from Your Law.”