

Luke's Gospel – An Inclusive Savior
Lesson Sixteen

[Luke 14:1-24].....Table Talk

vs.1-6

This occurs on the Sabbath

Man with edema is present. (Edema is a condition where tissues, cells, or cavities accumulate too much fluid and begin to swell - swelling tumor)

Under the watchful eye of the Pharisees, Jesus *still* heals this man

Jesus likens this miracle to a person's son or ox falling into a well on the Sabbath - this man's condition and need to be healed is just as important to him and Jesus as a person's son or ox in a well!

NOTE: Jesus gives two lessons for banquets: one for guests and one for hosts. Jesus is not dabbling in etiquette, but using the ordinary to teach of the kingdom of God.

-Lesson for Guests-

vs.7-11

It's an honor to be invited to a banquet.

If you sit in the "V.I.P." section and you don't belong there, you'll be embarrassed when you're asked to leave

Instead, seek the seat at the far end of the table and let the host sit you in a position of honor. You'll know that you're wanted to be there.

Point is not to fight for the lowest spot hoping someone will recognize you and move you up - might not happen!

Point is to not think so much of yourself and let the Lord show you off!

-Lesson for Hosts-

vs.12-14

Point is that we should not do acts of kindness expecting to be repaid by those who benefit from our acts.

Give to those who stand in need expecting nothing in return, and the Lord will repay you.

"May the work I've done, speak for me!"

-Lesson for Everybody-

vs.15

This appears to be a genuine statement. Perhaps this man thought he would be seated at this table (be a part of God's kingdom)

vs.16-20

The excuses are not the problem of this parable!

The problem is with the prioritizing of the guests who were invited. They chose these other activities over coming to the feast!

God not only wants to be first over the bad things in our lives, but God wants to be first over the *good* things too - especially the *good* things!

vs.21-23

The host finding new guests is not surprising (who wouldn't). The fact that the host invites people of a much lesser status than the originals *is* surprising

vs.24

This is what a host is supposed to do (vs.13 & 14)

Jesus is no longer talking about a host and guests, he is talking about himself and us!

This can be seen in three ways:

1. Prophets gave the first invitation; Jesus calls those invited; they turn down the invitation; the unacceptable of Israel and the Gentiles are

invited - HISTORICAL

2. As a justification of the church containing members who would have been or were rejected in most groups - CONTROVERSIAL
3. Jesus is proclaiming judgment on the church for becoming comfortable in their confidence of salvation; therefore no longer inviting to God's table the poor, hungry, homeless, lonely, depressed, crippled, and blind (the marginalized) – PROPHETIC

NEXT WEEK - Chapter 15