

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Humility and a Great Supper

Last time...Jesus went up to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Dedication (Hanukkah), and had another confrontation with the Pharisees in Herod's Temple

They wanted a clear statement regarding His Messiahship and Jesus gave them one!

This time...Jesus is invited to a meal in the house of one of the chief Pharisees.

Another hostile confrontation
4 stinging rebukes by Jesus

We will be in Luke 14

v1-2 house...chief Pharisees...sabbath...watched Him:

Jesus has left Jerusalem and has returned to the area around the Jordan River
He, and others, are invited to eat a meal in the house (large) of one of the chief Pharisees (wealthy and influential).

And the Son of God has another hostile encounter with the Pharisees

It is the Sabbath.

What do you think is going to happen, what are you expecting?
What is the expectation of the Pharisees?
Jesus will heal someone, again!

There have been recorded in the Gospels thus far 6 times when Jesus healed on the Sabbath (in chronological order)

1. the demon-possessed man at Capernaum
(Mark 1:21-28)
2. Peter's mother-in-law
(Mark 1:29-31, Matt 8:14-15, Luke 4:38-39)
3. The paralyzed man at the Pool of Bethesda
(John 5:2-10)
4. The man with the withered hand
(Mark 3:1-6, Matt 12:9-14, Luke 6:6-11)
5. The man born blind
(John 9:1-14)
6. The stooped over woman
(Luke 13:10-17)

The Pharisees are watching Jesus
Will He heal again?
Is this a trap?

Because present also in this house is a man with dropsy/edema,
an abnormal accumulation of an excessive amount of watery fluid in
cells, tissues, or secreting cavities

Was he there as part of a trap laid by the Pharisees?
Did he come to be healed because he heard Jesus was invited?

v3-4 Jesus answering...Is it lawful...held their peace:

What is Jesus answering?
Their thoughts!
They are not speaking, they were watching.
Should not the fact that Jesus knew their thoughts give them pause?!

Jesus answers their thoughts (question: Will He heal?) with a question:
Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath day?
Does the Spirit of the Law allow the exercise of mercy to help someone
who is in need of help on the Sabbath?
Is mercy in the heart of the Lawgiver?

What is the answer of the Pharisees?
Silence

They do not want to say, "Yes", for they would lose their reason to kill
Him
They do not want to say, "No", because what would the people think of
them?

Jesus put them in a corner...another unanswerable, no-win dose of Jesus' wisdom
for those who do not believe

With the hearts of the Pharisees and the heart of God on display, Jesus

- calls forth this man with dropsy before all the people in that house
- healed him
- let him go

Was he there against his will, the "bait" planted by the Pharisees?
Was he not invited and not welcome, now free to go?

This the 7th Sabbath healing by Jesus recorded in the Gospels

v5-6 answered them...could not answer Him:

Again, Jesus answers the Pharisees – their thoughts

(He did it again! Lawbreaker! It is not lawful to heal on the Sabbath!)

Previously in this region, when He healed the stooped over woman on the Sabbath, Jesus said Luke 13:15-16 (these Pharisees would have heard!)

Now, He again references mere animals, but this time in need of help/mercy from one able to help

On the Sabbath, which one of you hypocrites would not

- water your animals?
- without hesitation, help your animal (possession)?

Why not a man, created in the image of God?!

Do you care more for your animals than you do for your fellow man?

The question is a rebuke of the Pharisees

In v4, the Pharisees would not answer Jesus' direct question to them

Now, they could not answer His question...without incriminating themselves

They "plead the 5th" with their silence

v7 parable...chief rooms:

Many besides Jesus have been invited to this meal

Jesus has taken note of the other invited guests scrambling for the best seats, people who think more highly of themselves than they should

The heart of the Pharisees and of the invited guests disturbs/offends Jesus

Thus, a teaching moment (parable): humility

v8-10 sit not down in the highest...sit down in the lowest:

Jesus is rebuking, correcting, instructing in righteousness the attendees of this meal

His parable is that of a wedding, a more formal and higher profile event than a weekly Sabbath:

Do not, with presumptuous self-importance, sit in the place of highest honor, taking the highest honor

You very well may be publically downgraded from the head to the foot if (when) someone more honorable than you arrives

Awkward!

Humiliating and embarrassing

Beer commercial with Bob Uecker: I must be on the front row!

Rather, with genuine (vs false, scheming to attract attention to yourself)
humility, sit in the place of lowest honor
The host may invite you, his friend (not so called in v9) to a higher seat,
giving you honor
Not awkward, humiliating, or embarrassing but honoring

Therefore, you will have honor given to you before all the attendees
rather than honor taken from you that you took for yourself

Consider the Spirit-inspired words of with-child Mary over 3 decades previously
regarding “God my Savior”:

Luke 1:52 He hath put down the mighty from *their* seats, and exalted
them of low degree.

v11 whosoever:

Lesson: Without exception, the proud will be humbled before all
and the humble will be exalted/elevated before all

Humility – the mind of Christ

Rom 12:1-3, 16

mercies of God – His willingness to help us who need help
present your body a living sacrifice – self-last
not conformed to this world – anti-Me First the world teaches
renewing of our mind – think like Jesus (Phil 2:5-8)
the perfect will of God – others before Self
think not more highly of self – by the Word, understanding God’s
nature vs our nature therefore humility “fits”

same mind toward others – the mind of Christ
men of low estate – nobody too low to humble ourselves to
wise in own conceits – self-conceit is very unwise

Eph 4:17-24

Humility is the mind and nature of Christ
Humility is not the mind and nature of self
We must (with denial of self) put off the old and put on the new

James 4:6-10

God resists the proud – opposite of Rom 8:31...yikes!
gives grace to the humble – man’s greatest need for help
(forgiveness of sin) is given only to the humble
Submit – requires humility
resist the devil – “Look out for #1!”
Draw and He will draw – we must “move”, be willing to be
changed
cleanse and purify – with the water of the Word
Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven
Be afflicted and mourn – our sinful nature
Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted
Humble yourselves, He will lift you up
Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth

Jesus now turns His attention to the host, one of the chief Pharisees, and rebukes him

v12-14 call not...call...shall be blessed:

The self-seeking, self-important behavior of the invited guests upsets Jesus
So does the host and his “invitation list” – wealthy, movers and shakers, cohorts

This is a lesson is about motives for giving hospitality

Do not invite (just)

- your friends
- your brethren (fellow Pharisees)
- your family
- your rich neighbors (who have something you covet)
- those who can repay you in kind for your hospitality

But (also) invite

- the poor
- the maimed (I suspect the man with dropsy was NOT invited, but came to be healed)
- the lame
- the blind
- the socially outcast/downcast and undesirables
- those who could never repay you in kind for your hospitality

Your motives for giving hospitality is important...examine them carefully

Do not give to get (man’s heart)

Give to bless, expecting nothing in return (God’s heart)

God will reward you Personally in the age to come
For He invites those of v13...all of mankind from His perspective
Being hospitable toward others with His heart, “Deferred re-payment” is
so much better!!

So we read this, and what is our reaction?

Ouch! Rom 3:23

Lord, have mercy on my wretched soul, change me!

v15 Blessed is he:

Hearing the righteous rebukes of Jesus to the Pharisees, the host and his invited
guests, one of the people present exclaims,
“Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!”
“How wonderful will be the kingdom of God!”

Which serves as a springboard for another lesson/rebuke...
this one about the kingdom of God (in parable form, of course)

v16-17 certain man...great supper...bade many:

A certain man – God the Father
made a great supper – a feast, a celebration in His house
bade many – invited/called many (Pharisees etc present), sent invitations
sent his servant – Jesus Christ
at supper time – at the appointed time
Come, for all things are now ready – a reminder because now is the time

v18-20 all with one consent began to make excuse:

With one accord the many rejected the invitations given to them, offering
lame excuses as to why they could not accept the invitation

1. I just bought some land and I have to go see it
What? Really? Right now?!

I am too busy, no time for God-stuff now

Excuse: Earthly business

2. I just bought some oxen and have to give them a test run
What? Really? Right now?!

My stuff is more important than God-stuff

Excuse: worldly possessions or pleasures

3. I'm married

So?

This is not a call to arms! (Deut 20:1-7, Deut 24:5)

My wife is more important than God

Excuse: earthly, social relationships

v21-22 servant came...it is done:

The servant (Jesus) reports back to the Master of the house (The Father),
who is angered by the lame excuses of His invited guests

So He instructs His Servant to go near, and invite the poor/maimed/lame/blind
(ala v13)...publicans and sinners in the minds of the invited guests

The Master's Servant replies, "It is done. We still have room"

The Servant of God was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel
(Matt 15:24)

He has been preaching "the kingdom of God is at hand" for 3 years now...
Yet, He came unto His own and His own received Him not

v23 highways and hedges:

So the Master of the house instructs His Servant to go far,
to constrain/urge/persuade whosoever will come to His house for His feast

The afar off: Gentiles

Eph 2:11-17 Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

Whosoever is drawn...by God's love and grace

v24 none of those men which were bidden:

The Master's judgment of those invited but who rejected with lame excuses (Pharisees) – they shall not eat bread in the kingdom of God (v15)

The Master's judgment of the “undesirables” (Jew and Gentile) that humbly respond to His mercy and grace – entrance into His kingdom

Consider again the Spirit-inspired words of with-child Mary regarding “God my Savior”:

Luke 1:53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away

4 pointed lessons

1. Healing on the Sabbath

Does the Spirit of the Law allow the exercise of mercy to help someone on the Sabbath who is need of help?

Is mercy in the heart of the Lawgiver?

Do you care more for your animals/possessions than you do for your fellow man?

2. Humility, the mind of Christ

Do not

- be self-seeking
- be self-important
- be presumptuous
- be self-righteous and legalistic
- be falsely humble

Do

- be genuinely humble, thinking of others before Self
- be Self-last

3. Humility, the heart of God

Do not

- give in order to get

Do

- give to bless, expecting nothing in return

4. The kingdom of God

Do not

- receive God's invitation and reject it with some lame excuse (btw...every excuse is lame)
- wait to accept the invitation...now is the time of salvation, all things are now ready!

Do

- rejoice and eagerly accept God's invitation
- be comforted and encouraged that God so loves sinners!
- share this good news!