**THOUGHTS ON LUKE 14**

1. **JESUS’ WISDOM (Luke 14:1-6)**

Though the Pharisees had seemingly set a trap for Jesus (having the man with dropsy there and it being on a Sunday, would Jesus violate their Sabbath rules and heal him?), you see the wisdom of the Lord. He silenced them with His question, v.3 “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” Jesus boldly healed the man and sent him away (obviously was not a guest). The Pharisees were exposed for what they were: hypocrites claiming to defend God’s Sabbath laws when in reality they were denying God by the way they abused people and hated the Savior. Many lessons can be learned from the Pharisees. Selfishness always reduces the importance of others and enlarges the importance of one’s life. A SERIOUS LESSON ARISES FROM THIS. ARE YOU AND AM I APPEARING RELIGIOUS, YET IN REALITY ARE NOT LOVING GOD NOR LOVING OTHERS (these two cannot be separated)?

1. **JESUS’ WAYS (Luke 14:7-14)**
2. For a guest…TRUE HUMILITY (Luke 14:7-11)

Jesus advised the guests to take the lowest places. This is an axiom of God’s kingdom. V.11 “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted”. KEY here is that for one in God’s kingdom, we should not be focused on ourselves and promoting ourselves. Rather, we should be focused on God and on others. NOTE: humility is not the same as false humility. False humility (pretending to be humble) is just as hateful to God as the pride that takes the highest place. True humility is not just thinking lowly of ourselves; it is simply not thinking of ourselves at all. How can we be humble? The Lord Jesus is the greatest example of humility (Phil.2:1-16). We can ask Him to search our hearts and to enable us to follow His example and imitate Him. ARE THERE CLEAR WAYS YOU SEEK TO PROMOTE YOURSELF? SOCIAL MEDIA? FACEBOOK? ARE YOU CAUGHT UP IN APPEARANCES AND WHAT OTHERS THINK AND SAY…….OR WHAT GOD THINKS? IS HUMAN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO YOU? WHEN YOU LOOK CLOSELY AT HOW YOU ARE LIVING, IT REVEALS THE AUTHENTICITY OR ABSENCE OF FAITH. WHICH IS IT?

1. For a host….TRUE HOSPITALITY (Luke 14:12-14)

Jesus doesn’t forbid us from entertaining family and friends, but He warns us against **only** these. Often, we can ask those who have asked us, returning the favor. We also can invite people trying to gain an advantage ourselves (i.e. gaining society’s favor). Instead, Jesus urges to invite those who can never pay us back. In a sense, He urges us to put at the top of the list those that could never return it (v.13 the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind). Jesus promises that you will receive your reward at the resurrection of the just. WILL YOU EXAMINE YOUR OWN MOTIVE? WHEN YOU SHARE WITH OTHERS, IS IT TO GAIN THE APPLAUSE OF MEN AND TEMPORARY RECOGNITION ON THIS EARTH? OR IS YOUR MOTIVE TO BRING PRAISE TO GOD, UNDERSTANDING YOU WILL RECEIVE AN ETERNAL REWARD IN HEAVEN? WILL YOU PRACTICE TRUE HOSPITALITY?

1. **JESUS’ WARNINGS (Luke 14:15-35)**
2. **ACCEPT THE INVITATION! (v.15-24)**

Setting: was quite likely that things had become increasingly tense and uncomfortable at this dinner party! Everyone in the room had deliberately been confronted by Jesus. (All had been clamoring for the seats of honor, for recognition, and to trap Jesus..which had failed!) Seems one guest in hearing Jesus mention (v.14) the phrase the “resurrection of the just”, attempted to jump in to save the conversation and said,(v.15) “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God”….in a sense as though saying “Blessed are the likes of us who will eat at the kingdom of God!”- assuming all present would be at God’s Kingdom Feast!

 (Luke 14:15-24) Jesus issues a warning to every pious heart! In Jesus’ day when you invited guests to a dinner, you told them the day but not the exact hour of the meal. A host had to know how many guests were coming to prepare sufficient food. Just before the feast was to begin, the host sent his servants to each of the guests to tell them the banquet was ready and they should come. (In other words each of the guests in the parable had already agreed to attend the banquet. The host expected them to be there.)

Story: v.16 The man gave a great banquet and invited many. At the time for the banquet, the guests insulted the host by refusing to attend and giving very feeble excuses:

 One was to go and see a piece of real estate he had purchased (most banquets were held in

 the evening, which would not have affected his seeing it at all)

One had purchased 10 oxen (If the banquet was at night, was there really the need to go then? Had

he bought them without seeing them?)

 The last excuse was he had married a wife. (Jewish weddings were very well planned…he would

have known long before)

(EXCUSES REVEAL PRIORITIES)

v.21 So the servant came and reported all to the master of the house. He became angry and said to the servant, “Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.” V.22 The servant obeyed. There was still room. V.23 The master then said for him to go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in.

KEY VERSE: v.24 “For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.”

They perhaps thought they would get another invitation in the future, but that invitation never came!

NONE OF THOSE INVITED ACCEPTED THE INVITATION! THE MESSAGE OF THE PARABLE APPLIES TO ALL LOST SINNERS TODAY. God still says, “All things are ready!” COME! NOTHING MORE IS NEEDED TO BE DONE FOR THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOUL, for Jesus Christ finished the work of redemption when He died on the Cross and arose from the dead. The feast has been spread, the invitation is free, and you are invited to come! HAVE YOU PERSONALLY EVER ACCEPTED? HAVE POSSESSIONS AND OBSESSIONS PREVENTED YOU FROM ANSWERING HIS INVITATION? HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF WHAT IT COST JESUS TO PREPARE THE FEAST—HIS SUFFERING, TEARS, FLESH, AND BLOOD? IT COST HIM EVERYTHING…AND HE SAYS, “COME!” HAVE YOU TRULY COME TO JESUS?

**B.: SECOND: COUNT THE COST!** (**Luke 14:25-35**) Jesus left the Pharisee’s house, great crowds followed Him, but they were expecting the wrong things. Jesus’ warning thinned out the ranks. Jesus was obviously interested in quality, not just large numbers! The marks of a disciple are:

1. Luke 14:26 Here Jesus teaches disciples must love God first. He is to be Lord of all. “Hate” in this verse means to “love less”. A true disciple must have the Lord as top priority.
2. Luke 14:27 One is to carry one’s cross. This means to die to self…giving up our will and choosing the Lord’s. It means identifying with Jesus, even if it means suffering for Him. He Alone is Lord!
3. Luke 14:28-33 One is to count the cost. A builder would count the cost (v.28-30)

A king would assess his army before waging a war. (v.31-32)

We are to forsake all, meaning yield everything to the Lord’s control. (v.33)

1. Luke 14:34-35 Salt is a preservative, a purifying agent, an antiseptic, gives flavor to things, and makes one thirsty. A true disciple should make others thirsty for Jesus Christ and the salvation that He Alone gives. Our modern salt doesn’t lose its flavor, but the salt in Jesus’ day could lose its flavor, especially if it came in contact with earth. (warning: If we follow the ways of the world, we lose our saltiness!)

ARE YOU TRULY A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST? IS HE CLEARLY TOP PRIORITY IN YOUR LIFE? ARE YOU TAKING UP YOUR CROSS, FOLLOWING JESUS? HAVE YOU COUNTED THE COST? ARE YOU SALTY FOR THE LORD’S KINGDOM? DO YOU MAKE OTHERS THIRSTY FOR JESUS?