

134. Jesus Heals and Teaches Humility (Luke 14:1-14)

Prayer: Dear Jesus, we thank You for Your humility, that You left heaven and came here to serve us and die for us. Please take away our pride. Give us hearts that want to serve and help other people first, the same as You love and serve us. We pray in Your name. Amen.

Luke 14:1-6. On the Sabbath (Jewish holy day), Jesus went to a Pharisee's house to eat. That man was a leader for the Pharisees. All the Pharisees were carefully watching Jesus. A sick man was there in front of Jesus. He had dropsy (bad swelling, water build-up). Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, "Does the law say I can heal on the holy day, or I can't heal?" They answered nothing. Jesus touched the man, healed him, and sent him away. Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, "If you have a son or an ox that falls into a well on the holy day, what do you do? You will quickly pull him out, right?" They couldn't say anything.

- We often think the Pharisees completely hated Jesus and wouldn't listen to Jesus. Is that true? What did the Pharisees do here that showed they thought Jesus was important?
- The Pharisees always wanted to test and judge Jesus. How? What did they use to judge Jesus?
- Does God's law say you can't heal a person on the Sabbath (holy day)?

Luke 14:7-9. Many people came to eat at the house. Jesus noticed they chose the best places to sit, the places of honor. Jesus told them, "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, don't choose the best seat. Maybe the host invited someone more important than you. Then the host will come to you and say, 'Let this important man sit here.' You will be shamed and must move to the last seat."

- What does Jesus say we should not do? If we try to honor ourselves, what will happen?

Luke 14:10-11. Jesus said, “When the host invites you to the wedding feast, go and sit in the last place. Then the host will come and say, ‘Friend, take a better seat.’ Then everyone sees you get honored. The person who honors himself will become humbled. The person who humbles himself will get honored.”

- We should not honor or exalt ourselves. What should we do?
- Does Jesus mean that honor is bad? Who gives honor? Who should not try to take honor?

Luke 14:12-14. Jesus told the man who invited Him, “When you give a lunch or dinner, don’t invite your friends. Don’t invite your family or rich neighbors. They can invite you to their dinners. They can pay you back and you are even. When you give a dinner, invite poor people, lame people, blind people. God will bless you, because those people can’t pay you back. But God will pay you when the righteous people rise from the dead.”

- If we give a dinner and invite our friends and family because they can invite us to their dinners, who are we thinking about? Who or what is important to us?
- If we give a dinner and invite people who are poor and they can’t invite us, who are we thinking about? Who or what is important to us?
- Jesus talked about three things – working on the holy day, where to sit, and who to invite to dinner. Jesus emphasized one thing. Did Jesus say “Take care of yourself first,” or “Take care of other people first, yourself second.”