

May 18, 2014

"Invited to Eat: Bread in the Kingdom" Luke 14:1-24

I don't want to be a Pharisee / I don't want to be a Pharisee
Cause the Pharisees ain't fair you see / I don't want to be a Pharisee

I don't want to be a Saducee / I don't want to be a Saducee
Cause the Saducees are sad you see / I don't want to be a Saducee

I just want to be a Sheep, (Baa, baa) / I just want to be a Sheep, (Baa, baa)
Pray the Shepherd my soul to keep / I just want to be a sheep

Jesus said before and even repeatedly –

⁴⁴ **"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! (Luke 11:44 NKJ)**

I. *A tense time related to healing on the Sabbath –
:1-6*

1. *Remember Jesus had recently been challenged about this –*

¹⁴ **But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." (Luke 13:14 NKJ)**

2. *R. Kent Hughes believes this was a set up –*

"It was a setup all the way. The place had been carefully chosen—the home of a prominent Pharisee where he and his notable guests could observe Jesus firsthand and then bear unified testimony to any and every transgression. Also, the dinner party was scheduled on the Sabbath, a day that Jesus had reportedly violated on three separate occasions when he cast out demons and healed Simon Peter's mother (4:31–41), then healed a man with a withered hand (6:6–11), and most recently healed the bent woman (13:10–17). Further, most conveniently, a sick man was present—"a man suffering from dropsy"—whose torso was pathetically swollen by the retention of body fluids in the stomach and chest cavities and connective tissues. Such swelling often indicates organ failure. The man was very sick, probably terminally ill. A terrible snare had been set for Jesus, baited with misery that he would find irresistible. They thought they had Jesus trapped." R. Kent Hughes

A. *Now the passage does not say specifically this was a set up*

B. *Scripture did usually tell us when they "plotted" against Jesus –
Matthew 12:14; Mark 3:6; or tried to "catch Him in His words."*

(Mar 12:13 NKJ). *We read of other times when they were
"testing Him" – Matthew 16:1 & 19:3*

C. *Luke 6:7 tells of a similar instance of watching -*

⁷ **So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him. (Luke 6:7 NKJ)**

What is going on here? Was a trap set for Jesus?

⁹ **"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9NKJ)**

*The Pharisees seemed to know - GLYME'S FORMULA FOR SUCCESS
The secret of success is sincerity. Once you can
fake that, you've got it made.*

3. *Anyway, Jesus beats all TRAPS and even QUESTIONS in their
minds by asking them the question first –*

"Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"

⁴ **But they kept silent. And He took him and healed him, and let him go.**

⁵ **Then He answered them, saying, "Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?" ⁶ And they could not answer Him regarding these things. (Luke 14:3-6 NKJ) *Jesus knew and KNOWS all hearts -***

¹⁰ **I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings. (Jeremiah 17:10 NKJ)**

II. *A time for a parable about seating and humility
and teaching about true hospitality – :7-11*

What does this parable teach us?

1. *Even the simplest things, like sitting at a party, can be done
either in right or wrong ways –*

³¹ **Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1Corinthians 10:31 NKJ)**

2. *We are taught the high value of humility -*

¹¹ **"For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 14:11 NKJ)**

3. *There is historical evidence that the Jews actually took at the outward aspect of this teaching to heart –*

The fifth-century *Leviticus Rabbah I* recommends: “Stay two or three seats below your place and sit until they say to you, ‘Go (farther) up.’ Do not begin by going up because (then) they may say to you, ‘Go down.’ It is better that they should say to you ‘Go up, go up,’ than that they should say to you, ‘Go down, go down.’”

4. *Verses :12 – 14 probably stepped on some toes, I believe they also led to the comment we read in verse :15*

III. *A time for truth about the Heavenly Kingdom –*

1. *A comment containing TRUTH but also likely a false assumption –*

¹⁵ **Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!" (Luke 14:15 NKJ)**

TRUTH #1 Yes, it is absolutely true - "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!"

TRUTH #2 Repayment comes in the next Kingdom / not now ...

¹³ **"But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. ¹⁴ "And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just." (Luke 14:13-14 NKJ)**

False assumption which Jesus seems to tackle:

- A. *There seems to be an assumption ALL PRESENT COMPANY WOULD BE PART of that “resurrection of the just”*
 - B. *The general fact that there would be a resurrection was something Jesus and the Pharisees agreed on.*
 - C. *This man seems to be saying, to a probably TENSE room, all will be right and BLESSED when we are all in Heaven together – eating bread in the Kingdom*
2. *Jesus defeats this false assumption by speaking of people would were INVITED but did NOT come –*

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many,¹⁷ and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.'¹⁸ But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.'¹⁹ And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'²⁰ Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'²¹ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.'²² And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.'²³ Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'²⁴ For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'" (Luke 14:16-24 NKJ)

They all rejected the invitation because of IMPORTANT THINGS:

:18 a piece of ground

:19 a yoke of oxen

:20 a new wife

The Jews, the Pharisees for the most part, as even we are today, were all caught up with the things of this world, the HERE and NOW!

They were not living in light of the resurrection! They were not living for the Kingdom of God –

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33 NKJ)

Even their parties showed they were all about this, inviting those who could “repay” but it was not only their parties but also their almsgiving and prayers, they’re entire lives were about the here and now - Matthew 6:1-5

² **"Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. (Mat 6:2 NKJ)**

** Luke 14:25-35 Jesus INVITES us to follow Him! Will you come?*

Arnold A. Brevick