

## Jesus Exposes Pharisee Foolishness Luke 14:1-14

### Answering Critical Scrutiny

<sup>1</sup> Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had dropsy. <sup>3</sup> And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"

<sup>4</sup> But they kept silent. And He took *him* and healed him, and let him go. <sup>5</sup> 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?" <sup>6</sup> And they could not answer Him regarding these things.

### Take the Lowly Place

<sup>7</sup> So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: <sup>8</sup> "When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; <sup>9</sup> and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

### Motives Behind Inviting Others

<sup>12</sup> Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a feast, invite *the* poor, *the* maimed, *the* lame, *the* blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

### Questions:

1. Why would an important Pharisee invite Jesus to a Sabbath day dinner? Was it typical for them to invite guests and then use it to entrap them? (Luke 7:36-39; 11:37-38) What should be the purpose of our hospitality?
2. Jesus saw a man with dropsy (accumulation of fluid and swelling; often caused by heart or kidney malfunction). How did Jesus make the first move ahead of any criticism? Why didn't they answer when given the opportunity?
3. What example did Jesus give of work the Jews considered to be legitimate to perform on the Sabbath? Why would they break the Sabbath for their own profit, but not when it came down to the needs of their fellow man?
4. What conduct did Jesus closely observe among the invited guests? (see the word 'noted' vs 7) How comical must this elbowing have been to watch? Have you ever seen this kind of thing happen?
5. What did Jesus show them could happen that would be very embarrassing? How did Jesus show them the proper way to receive glory in front of others? In spite of Jesus' advice, why don't we follow it more often?
6. Jesus gives two important principles in vs 11. Does this only apply in cases of social etiquette, or is this an enduring principle in spiritual matters as well? What does it mean to exalt oneself or humble oneself?
7. What did Jesus say to His host about the guests he had invited? Is it wrong to invite family or friends?
8. Explain Jesus' point about who we should invite. What purpose or motive did Jesus emphasize in hospitality?
9. Where should the Pharisee have been looking for his reward? What does being repaid at the resurrection mean? When will we be recompensed for remembering the needy?
10. Jesus saw through the facade of Pharisee hospitality (exploiting people, attending feasts to receive honors, and inviting only people who could return the favor). What can we do for our hospitality to be true ministry?