

Jesus in the House

Luke 14:1-24

Focal passage:

Luke 14:12-14

12 Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. **13** But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, **14** and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Can you believe it: Jesus attends a dinner party and takes over, giving the host some directions about how to throw the next party, including who to include on the guest list. What He does and says is not something you would naturally do in our culture now, or what was done in His time, either. So, why did He do that?

- 1. He knew who He was**
- 2. He knew why He had been invited**
- 3. He knew He was being watched**
- 4. He knew He was being set up**
- 5. He knew they ALL needed to be taught several lessons**
- 6. He knew the man in pain needed His touch.**
- 7. He knew the man healed didn't need the correction**

Today, as on that day, there were 2 types of people in the house:

- 1. There are some who are here who just need a healing touch from the Master.**

You don't need another sermon; you need a fresh encounter with Christ to meet you where you are...to meet your personal need, just like the man with dropsy. Maybe it's physical, relational, financial or even emotional...something is happening in your life to make you feel different from others. You see them as blessed, but maybe you see yourself as cursed. You see others as healthy, but you see yourself as heavy with illness. You see them as secure, but you see yourself as needy, unstable, about the fall. You see others as having a right to be here, but you are wondering what you are even doing here in God's house right now, because you feel unworthy and quite frankly, uncomfortable. You see others as more connected spiritually with God and others, but you feel disconnected, out of place. You want to hide while others are trying to be seen. I've got a word for you: He is here and wants to meet your need, regardless of what it is, who you are or who invited you to come...**He cares about you...He knows all**

about you...and you are in front of Him...He will not ignore you...He will not let anyone use you! He won't let you leave here the same way you came in...if you are willing.

Let Him do what He does with your heart...He will engage with you, He will use your life to demonstrate His authority and power, He will use your encounter with Him to teach others what they are missing and need and He will send you on your way to tell your story!

2. There are some who are here who need a healing touch within our hearts: We came here to get something not give anything. We came here to watch, not engage. We came here to be objective, not to get subjective. We came here feeling no need, no pain, with no agenda. Like the Pharisees, we just found ourselves here today, because that's what we usually do on worship days...hang out with people just like us, who think like us, talk like us, socialize like us and do life like us.

I've got a word for you, too: **He cares about you...He knows all about you...and you are in front of Him...He will not ignore you...He will not let anyone use you! He won't let you leave here the same way you came in...if you are willing.**

When you invite Jesus into your house, you can expect the following:

1. To teach you how to be sensitive to people in pain. v2

do more than just notice, but get involved and meet their needs if possible.

Because He cares about you, He will help you get to the place where you are willing to own your own pain...Often, we are insensitive to the pain of others because we are insensitive to our own personal pain. We live dysfunctional, disconnected lives...where we observe the problems of others, but do not feel any compulsion to do anything about it, because we really don't want to do anything with our pain.

Jesus is going to 'get in your grill!' ...Because He is sensitive to you...and because Jesus is in the house!

2. To draw you into the conversation. v3 'he asked the Pharisees and experts in the law'

Jesus knew their 'hot button'....breaking the Sabbath.

What's your 'hot button'? What is ironclad in your life, a boundary, an action, an attitude about how you do your religion which you just don't plan on discussing unless Jesus forces you to talk about the 'elephant in the room?' What subject gets you 'huffy?' By the way, sometimes God will use a preacher, but most of the time He will use our kids, our spouses, our jobs to stretch us and teach us. He is drawing you into the conversation right now...because Jesus is in the house!

3. To actually challenge how you see things and people. V3-6

So, how does He do that? By using people in your life...real challenges come from God in the form of real people in our lives, not academics. He will personalize the issue you most wrestle with, a real live person in your life! The breaking and molding of our lives is always

connected to people in our lives. How the Lord is shaping and maturing you is to utilize those who are the closest to you. He is placing someone with 'dropsy' right in front of you...In fact, they are already there, now. Even those with 'dropsy' have someone in front of them, too...and it may be us!

You are being challenged right now as to how you will see them, thus revealing how you see yourself as well as how you see God! You are being stretched...because Jesus is in your house!

4. To correct how you do things. V7-14

a. Choose the humble path always.

V8-11

(Al Neuharth, a few with him...'they all put their pants on one leg at a time.')

b. Bless those who have no ability to bless or return the favor. V12

c. Engage with people in pain you do not know. V12

d. Experience a 'blessing.' V14...inside your heart

e. Give with eternal expectation, not worldly return. V12-14

He is correcting our behavior right now...because Jesus is in the house!

5. To teach you how God sees things. V 15-24

(Parable...earthly story with a heavenly meaning)

1. God wants everyone to come to His Banquet

2. God calls all his servants to be the invitation deliverymen.

3. God wants His house filled.

4. God may not give you another invitation, once you reject the first one.

So, how did the Sabbath meal end? Something had to happen between v24 and v25...but there is no answer to the question. Here's what I think: After Jesus told the parable, there was an awkward moment...silence, followed by indigestion...maybe some choked on their food, while others loss their appetites...

Some probably got mad at Him...others got mad at the host for inviting Him...but the real people who were healed that day were:

1. The man with dropsy who allowed Jesus to use his pain for His glory.
2. The men at the banquet, who answered the invitation of Jesus to be one who heeded God's invitation to His banquet...the greatest Sabbath of all, Kingdom Living!

So, that's where we are right now...between v24 and v25...so, what is Jesus saying to you about you...He is speaking right now, too...because Jesus is in the house!