

Luke 14 – 25 June 2023

“Feasting On Love”

Introduction

- *Beginning in Chap 10, Jesus is going thru Judean cities on His way to Jerusalem for final time
- *In Chap 14, Jesus & His disciples stop at the house of a chief Pharisee for a feast
- *Jesus wants to feast with us b/c He wants fellowship with us
- *Thru these feasts today we really learn the true characteristics of a Christian ‘Love Feast’
- *The early church had gatherings they called ‘Love Feasts’ as mentioned in Jude 12 – for fellowship!
- *To take our fellowship to the next level, let’s examine the Christian character of a true ‘Love Feast’ as taught here by Jesus Himself

So today, here are 4 ways a Christian feasts on love

#1: We love even if it violates traditions (Vs 1-6)

Read Vs 1

1. Jesus often eats w/ people as a chance to bond

Read Vs 2-3

1. This was in the home of a chief Pharisee, so this dropsical man seems to have been placed there to taunt Jesus into action on the Sabbath Day
2. Notice, Jesus ‘answered’ them – they provoked the situation & Jesus answered it
3. ‘Is it lawful’? – Is what I’m about to do a good thing or a bad thing? (Loving or unloving?)

Read Vs 4-5

1. Jesus considers us as belonging to Him
 - a. ‘He took him’
 - b. ‘Shall have an ass or ox’
2. Sabbath law is designed to enable us to take care of ourselves & each other
 - a. Caring for suffering life, especially human life is preeminent intention of the Sabbath law

Read Vs 6

1. Jesus' answers are perfect...so implement them

#2: We love by giving humility (Vs 7-14)

Read Vs 7

1. These are chief seats at reclining dinner table
2. They placed their coats (so to say) to mark their importance wanting to be seen as respected
3. They needed seen of others as highly valued

Read Vs 8-9

1. Don't be into self-promotion, it just leads to shame & demotion

Read Vs 10-11

1. Trait of greatness & path to promotion is humility
2. Notice He didn't say, 'sit in a low seat', He said 'sit in the lowest seat'
 - a. To the extent that you exalt yourself, you'll be humbled and to the extent that you humble yourself, you'll be exalted

Read Vs 12-14

1. Giving when you can receive again isn't giving, it's called exchanging
 - a. True giving to when you can't receive again
 - b. Read Luke 6:31-36 – Not exchanging, but unselfishly giving is one of the greatest ways to demonstrate God's love for others
 - i. This takes great humility
2. Read Rom 12:16 – What outlets to we have to giving in order to show God's love?
3. “Resurrection of the just”
 - a. Rom 14:10 – All believers will appear
 - b. I Cor 3:12-15 – Our work will be declared
 - c. II Cor 5:10-11 – B/c of our judgement to come, we want to work on loving and persuading people

#3: We love by giving grace (Vs 15-24)

Read Vs 15-17

1. This is in response to one talking about fellowshiping in the Kingdom of God
2. This pictures God's desire to fellowship w/ us
3. Of course, this is seen for real in Rev 19:9

Read Vs 18-20

1. Men make excuses (like here), God gives reasons (like Isa 1:18)
2. Three common reasons, as seen here
 - a. My possessions are more important to me than You are
 - b. My pursuits are more important to me than You are
 - c. My people are more important to me than You are
3. They've placed these as higher value than a free great feast new friends and great fellowship!

Read Vs 21

1. Would you notice the servant is almost in the background b/c he's simply doing what he's told
 - a. A steward's job is to be found faithful
2. 'Go get the poor' compares to the idea that the Gospel isn't just preached to those expected but to the poor & unworthy, whom we are

Read Vs 22-23

1. So not only did He invite the so-called worthy (in vs 17), the so-called unworthy (in vs 21), but also the down-right evil sinners here in verse 23
2. 'Compel them'
 - a. Read II Cor 5:14 – As believers we're compelled by His great love for us
 - b. Some go to heaven & some hell, but we don't read of God's plan to send people to hell
 - i. We read of God's great plan to compelled people by His love into heaven!

Read Vs 24

1. How could such a compelling offer of love be rejected? By wanting our own way, even to our own detriment

#4: We love by denying our own will (Vs 25-35)

Read Vs 25-26

1. It's b/c great multitudes latched onto the great blessings of the Kingdom that Jesus now balances the blessings with the responsibility
2. Seen as hate in comparison to our love of Jesus
 - a. Read Luke 16:15 – highly esteemed w/ men
 - b. Read John 13:35 – by this (love) shall all men know that you're My disciples
 - c. Read Matt 6:33 – seek ye first kingdom...

Read Vs 27

1. A prerequisite to being followers of Jesus is death of self

Read Vs 28-33

1. Two examples given
 - a. 'Building a vineyard tower' – speaks of protecting what's yours
 - b. 'Going to war' – speaks of expanding what's yours
2. Principle: consider FIRST what you'll give up in order to make it to the finish of the purpose
3. So vs 33 is 'forsake' like 'placing everything else as secondary to the cause of serving Christ'
 - a. Spontaneously ready to give up self desire
4. Salvation is at no cost to us, but discipleship comes at great cost to us
 - a. Remember John 13:35 – By this shall all men know that you are My disciples... (love)
 - b. We grow into becoming disciples b/c our love of Christ outstrips our love for all else

Read Vs 34-35

1. We're either performing our intended purposes or we are of no good to anyone else
2. What is salt good for?
 - a. Preserving – II Thes 2 shows H.S. leaving
 - b. Flavoring – we add zest & liven things up
 - c. Make thirsty – taste & see the Lord is good
 - d. Weed killer – In Sower & Seed, thorns=sin
3. Jesus said, we are the salt of the world, how we doing?

Conclusion

Are we becoming like Jesus in love for one another?

- 1. Are we willing to love even in the face of violating common traditions?**
- 2. Are we loving by showing humility, when our flesh wants to take power & position?**
- 3. Are we loving by giving grace to the undeserving as Jesus did for us?**
- 4. Are we loving others by denying self interest for the sake of building the Kingdom of God?**

To really come to a Christian “Love Feast”, let us come to each other in the Spirit of Christ Jesus

With the character and heart of Jesus