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By Dan Maines

Luke 14

Luke 14:1-6

It happened that when He went into the house of one of the leaders of the Pharisees on the Sabbath to eat bread, they were watching Him closely. And there in front of Him was a man suffering from edema. And Jesus responded and said to the lawyers and Pharisees, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" But they kept silent. And He took hold of him and healed him, and sent him away. And He said to them, "Which one of you, if he has a son or an ox fall into a well, will not immediately

pull him out on a Sabbath day?" And they could offer no reply to this.

† Jesus exposed the Pharisees' hypocrisy by showing mercy outweighed ritual.

† The Sabbath was fulfilled in Christ as the true rest.

† Silence of the leaders revealed their hardness of heart.

Luke 14:7-14

Now He began telling a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor at the table, saying to them, "Whenever you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, and the one who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then in disgrace you will proceed to occupy the last place. But whenever you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are dining at the table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Now He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, "Whenever you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor wealthy neighbors, otherwise they might also invite you in return, and that will be your repayment. But whenever you give a banquet, invite people who are poor, who have disabilities, who are limping, and people who are blind; and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

† True greatness came through humility, not seeking honor.

† Kingdom hospitality reached the poor and outcast.

† Repayment came from God, not man.

Luke 14:15-24

When one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" But He said to him, "A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; and at the time of the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, because everything is ready now.' And yet they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, 'I purchased a field, and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.' And another one said, 'I purchased five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.' And another one said, 'I took a woman as my wife, and for that reason I cannot come.' And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor, and those with disabilities, and those who are blind, and those who are limping.' And later the slave said, 'Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and along the hedges, and press upon them to come in, so that my house will be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my dinner.'"

† The banquet symbolized the kingdom invitation first to Israel, then to the nations.

† Excuses revealed misplaced priorities.

† The outcasts entering revealed God's mercy to the Gentiles.

Luke 14:25-35

Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My

disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who are watching it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This person began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to face the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Otherwise, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and requests terms of peace. So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

"Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? It is useless either for the soil or the manure pile, so it is thrown out. The one who has ears to hear, let him hear."

† Discipleship demanded supreme loyalty to Christ, above all earthly ties.

† Bearing the cross pointed to the cost of following Him before AD 70's tribulation.

† Salt symbolized the preserving influence of true disciples, but corruption led to rejection.

How it applies to us today:

† Luke 14 reveals humility, mercy, invitation, and the cost of discipleship. The fulfilled perspective shows these warnings were urgent for that generation, and fulfilled in Jerusalem's fall. For us today, this chapter calls us to humble service, radical devotion, and faithful perseverance in the kingdom.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus, Wars 6.2.4

- † Philo, On the Virtues 102
- † Tacitus, Histories 5.13
- † Irenaeus, Against Heresies 4.9.2

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