

## Lesson 15

# Lessons at a Pharisee's House

## Luke 14

### Healing a Man of Dropsy (14:1-6)

On one Sabbath day, Jesus was invited into the home of a chief Pharisee for a meal. His hosts were not sympathetic toward Him, for “they watched Him” (14:1). A certain man was there who had dropsy, a disease in which one’s body fluids build up. Knowing the thoughts of the Pharisees, Jesus said, “Is it

est seats lest a more important guest arrive later and the host ask them to move to a lower seat. Seeing all the other places taken, they would then be publicly embarrassed to move from the higher seat to take the least honorable seat there. It is much better to take a lowly seat and then have the host insist that you move up to a more honorable place (cf. Prov. 25:6-7). “For whoever

**“Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?” (14:5).**

lawful to heal on the Sabbath day?” (14:3). They would not answer. Jesus then healed the man and said, “Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the Sabbath day?” (14:5). The Pharisees kept silence.

### A Lesson to the Guests (14:7-11)

Not only did the Pharisees watch Jesus, He also watched them. Seeing how they sought out the chief seats at the feast (14:7), He taught them against self-exaltation. He told them not to chose the high-

exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted” (14:11). By this statement, Jesus condemned the Pharisees who were seeking positions of prominence.

### A Lesson to the Host (14:12-14)

Having said these things to the guests, Jesus then gave a lesson to the host on whom to invite to suppers. Jesus taught the host to reach out to the poor, maimed, lame, and blind by opening one’s home to these unfortunate people. He was not absolutely forbidding one from

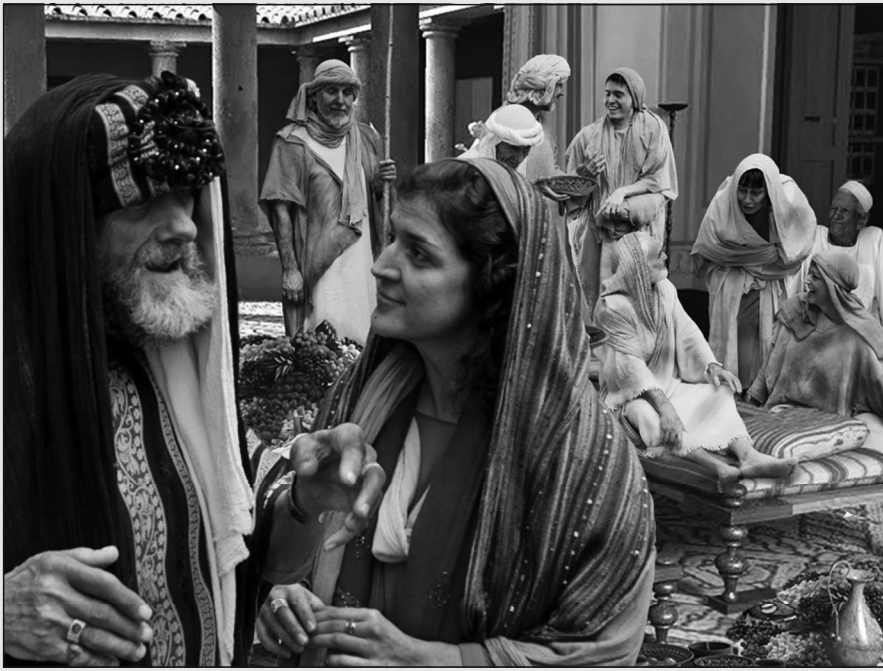
ever having a feast for one’s friends and brethren; instead, He was showing the host a good work which he could and should be doing. Most of us do what this host did in our social meals—we entertain our kinsmen, friends, and influential people. Rarely do we open our homes to those less fortunate than we are. In encouraging this Jesus said, “. . . thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed in the resurrection of the just” (14:14).

### Parable of the Great Supper (14:15-24)

Perhaps one present at the feast felt tension rising among the guests and hosts, as both’s conduct had been condemned. Perhaps trying to relieve the tension, he said, “Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God” (14:15). Jesus used this statement to teach that some men who say they want to participate in that feast will not accept the invitation to participate in it.

He told of a man who prepared a feast and invited many to come. On the day when the feast was ready, he sent his servant to call his friends to come; each began to make excuses for not coming. One justified his absence, saying, “I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it” (14:18). Another excused himself saying, “I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them” (14:19). The third said, “I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come” (14:20). None of these matters was pressing; the excuse reflected how each valued the invitation extended to him.

When the servant reported to his master these excuses, the master was angry and instructed him to go out and invite the poor, maim, and



blind of the city to come. When these had arrived and there was still room, he sent his servant out into the highways and hedges and to compel others to come that his house may be filled. Then he added, “. . . none of those men which were bidden shall taste of the supper” (14:24).

The parable was intended for the Pharisees. They were represented in the parable by those to whom the invitation was extended—the honored guests. However, they refused the Lord’s invitation, making excuses. Those poor, maim, and blind of the city represented the “publicans and sinners” who heard

the gospel and responded in obedience to it. Those in the highways and hedges were the Gentiles who later would hear and obey the gospel. While these came in obedience to the word of God and participated in the kingdom of God, the Pharisees would never participate in the great supper in the kingdom.

### **The Cost of Discipleship (14:26-35)**

Leaving the dinner at the Pharisee’s house, Jesus was followed by a great crowd. He taught them that discipleship means putting obedience to His word above every human relationship and life itself (14:26). Discipleship demands self-denial and cross bearing (14:27). Discipleship demands that one count the cost (14:28-32). A man must be willing to forsake all that he has in order to be a disciple of Christ (14:33).

A man who tries to be Christ’s disciple without this level of commitment is like salt which has lost its savour. Such salt is useless. It cannot be thrown on the land or dunghill lest it damage them, destroying the land’s ability to grow and the dung’s use as fertilizer. It can only be cast in the way to be walked on. So is a Christian who lacks this commitment. He is not only not productive, he is destructive. “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear” (14:35).

**While these came in obedience to the word of God and participated in the kingdom of God, the Pharisees would never participate in the great supper in the kingdom.**

### **Questions**

1. Why would the Pharisees object to Jesus’ healing a man (14:1)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did Jesus’ speaking about helping a fallen ox or ass answer their objection (14:5)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do men want chief seats (14:7)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. On what basis did Jesus appeal to men to take the lowest seat (14:8-10)? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What lesson did Jesus teach in 14:7-11? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Did Jesus absolutely forbid entertaining friends (14:12)? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What lesson did Jesus teach in 14:12-14? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Identify these characters from Jesus' parable in 14:15-24:
  - a. Man who made the supper: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Friends invited: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Those who were poor, maim and blind: \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Those in highways and hedges: \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Those inviting them to come: \_\_\_\_\_
9. What did Jesus say God's disposition was toward those who rejected His invitation (14:21, 24)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. In what sense is one to "hate" those things mentioned in 14:26? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What is 14:26 teaching? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What requirements for discipleship are given in v. 27? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What do vv. 28-32 teach? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Explain the parable of the salt (14:34-35). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**True or False**

- \_\_\_ 1. Vv. 1-6 teach men to observe the Sabbath day.
- \_\_\_ 2. The Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, Sunday.
- \_\_\_ 3. Jesus taught that God gets angry.
- \_\_\_ 4. Hating one's wife for the gospel means "to love her less than one loves the gospel."
- \_\_\_ 5. Salt which has lost its savour can do harm.

**Overcoming Excuses**

1. For what reasons will Christ excuse us from worship? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What evidences would indicate a person is only half-trying to be a faithful Christian? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_