

Dinner Lessons with Jesus, Part 1

Luke 14:1-14

Today's Question: If Jesus had dinner with you today, what do you think He would teach you?

Luke 14:1-14 (NKJV): A Man with Dropsy Healed on the Sabbath

14 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. ² And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had dropsy. ³ And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"

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

Take the Lowly Place

⁷ So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: ⁸ "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; ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹² 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. ¹³ But when you give a feast, invite *the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind.* ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

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5 Life-changing Lessons:

1. Always do the _____ thing even if others may _____ wrongly (v. 1).

How should you respond when people are monitoring your actions from a very critical lens?

- 1) Be wise in both your timing, your words, and your actions.
- 2) Don't live your life around those who are **against** you, but for the God who is **for** you!
- 3) Keep doing the next right thing even when others are trying to catch you doing the wrong thing!

2. _____ is more powerful than _____ (v. 2-6).

- What is dropsy? "This is a painful disease in which, because of kidney trouble, a heart ailment, or liver disease, the tissues fill with water."¹

Jesus vs the Legalist:

- Jesus valued _____ while the Legalist valued _____.
- Jesus valued _____ while the Legalist valued _____.
- Jesus valued the _____ while the Legalist valued the _____.
- Jesus valued _____ while the Legalist valued _____.
- Jesus operated out of joyful _____ while the Legalist operated out of grudgeful _____.
- Jesus brought _____ News while the Legalist _____ bad news.
- Jesus offered the freedom of _____ while the Legalist offered the bondage of _____.

Proverbs 29:25; The fear of man brings a snare,
But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

3. When you lift yourself _____, others will eventually put you in your _____ (v. 7-9, 11a).

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 1, p. 228). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- Jesus gives us a parable about promotion. In a Jewish meal, important people would get to dine at the head of the table nearest to the host. The lesser important people would sit at the very end of the table.
- Jesus' principle in this parable is that you don't want to exalt yourself, because that is not your job—that is the God's job!

James 4:10 (NLT): Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

How do you overcome the poison of pride?

- 1) **Recognize** where everything _____ in your life came from.
- 2) **Recall** the _____ of your life.
- 3) **Remember** that you are _____. Jesus first. Others second. Yourself third.
- 4) **Realize** the main root of pride: _____.

4. **True _____ leads to true _____** (v. 7-11).

What humility is not...

- Humility is not putting yourself _____. That's called _____ humility.
- Humility is not thinking _____ of yourself. That's called low _____-esteem.
- Humility is not letting people _____ over you. That's called being a _____-over.

What humility is...

- Humility is lifting others up above yourself. That's called _____.
- Humility is thinking about yourself less. That's called being _____ focused.
- Humility is knowing how to respond to difficult people and situations. That's called _____ and emotional intelligence.

5. **True _____ gives to those who can't _____ the favor** (v. 12-14).

- If you really wanted to be blessed by God, bless those who can't repay you.

Scripture Insight: “do not ask your friends, your brothers. Clearly this is not to be taken as an absolute prohibition against inviting friends or relatives to a meal. Christ employed similar hyperbole in [v. 26](#). Such language is common in Semitic discourse and is used for emphasis. His point here is that inviting one’s friends and relatives cannot be classified as a spiritual act of true charity. It may also be a rebuke against those prone to reserve their hospitality for “rich neighbors” who they know will feel obligated to return the favor. Cf. [Deut. 14:28, 29](#).”²

- When you minister to “the least” of these, you will be repaid in the next lifetime.

Cultural Insight: “In our Lord’s time, it was not considered proper to ask poor people and handicapped people to public banquets. (The women were not invited either!) But Jesus commanded us to put these needy people at the top of our guest list *because they cannot pay us back*.”³

- You can never out give God, so practice radical generosity (v. 14).

2 Corinthians 5:10; For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Christ Connection: Jesus humbled Himself and gave Himself for you, so that you could walk in true humility and generosity.

Today’s Big Idea (A short summary): You are attractive to both God and others when you walk in true humility and in radical generosity.

Action Steps:

1. **Live out of love and not out of cold legalism.** Stop being the judge, the jury, and the executioner. Start being the hands and feet of Jesus by truly loving and serving others.
2. **Give generously.** Bless someone this week who can’t return the blessing.

² John MacArthur Study Bible.

³ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 1, p. 230). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.