

Luke 14: “Guess Who’s Coming to Sunday Dinner”
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Mike Domenica

BACKGROUND

- Enmity between the “seeds” of Eve and Satan (Gen. 3:15)
- Continuing friction with the unbelieving Pharisees is the picture of the continuing enmity
- Two kings, two kingdoms...one Savior
- Jesus’ parables and messages are directed at Pharisees/Israel...and the Church of the NT

SUNDAY DINNER WITH THE RULER OF THE SYNAGOGUE (14:1-24)

1. The Law, the Gospels and the Cross “The Law” (v.1-6)

a. The key point is not compassion for the sick; not healing on the Sabbath!

“...they were watching him carefully.” (14:1b) “...looking to accuse him...(12:10)

- Trapping the trappers
- What is happening here? Critical to understand: The Law, the Gospels and the Cross

b. The conflict of Laws: the written code vs. the Law of the Spirit!

“Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath?” (Matt. 12:10ff)

The Law: The reflection of the character/holiness of God.

Righteousness and Godliness: What is the difference?

The written code addresses Righteousness; The Holy Spirit addresses Godliness

“Consecrate yourselves and be ye Holy for I, the Lord your God, am Holy.” (Lev. 20:7)

*“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”
(John 1:17)*

- By the hand vs. of the heart
- Outward vs. inward
- Self-defined standards vs. God-defined standard
- Attainable vs. Unattainable
- Being vs. doing

The purpose of the written law: To kill the “flesh”, the self, the “old man”!

c. The purpose of the Law: That every mouth may be stopped (Rom. 3:19)

“Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.”

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.”

Note 14:4,6 “*But they remained silent...and they could not reply to these things.*”

d. What happened at the cross?

- The written law brings righteousness; The cross brings Godliness
- Righteousness without the cross is self-righteousness
- “*I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live...*” (Gal. 2:20)

e. See Hebrews. What day is the Sabbath? Every day!

- The veil has been torn...by the High Priest...the very, very, very High Priest!!
- No sacred and secular: Everywhere you go is sacred; Everyone you meet is a divine encounter!
- How do we then live? With the cross comes the Spirit...but that is for another day!

2. Recognizing Our Place at the Table (14:7-11)

Jesus notices where the important, distinguished guests choose to sit as they enter the room. Up front, next to the host, beside their wealthy friends, near the honorable people. He tells a parable:

- a. Be careful where you sit...someone more important than you may come and you will have to move.
- b. You will be humbled and shamed when this happens.

“for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled; and everyone who humbles himself will be exalted” (14:11)

But how does one humble himself? It is difficult to do to oneself. The act of humbling oneself is, in a real way, actually exalting oneself as a humble person! As soon as we think we are humble, the humility disappears!

In fact, the only means of true humility comes through our relationship with the Lord. When we stand next to the full import of his laws of love to God, neighbors and enemies, humility is the natural consequence. It is our reference point that is the problem.

Best conveyed by John the Baptist at Jesus’ baptism:

“Indeed, I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matt. 3:11)

Summary to the Pharisees: Sit at the lower end of the dinner table, because someday someone is going to come to dinner infinitely higher and more important than you or anyone else in the room...and you are going to be very embarrassed if you are sitting anywhere near the head of the table. You will be ushered to the back...in complete humility...and maybe out of the room! (14:24)

This is what the law does!

3. Setting the Guest List (14:12-14)

Jesus to the Host: *"You invited the wrong people! You invited your distinguished, rich friends, relatives and neighbors!"*

Host: *Well, then, who should I invite?*

Jesus: (Clarifies to the host who are the more important people that should have been invited!)

"The poor, the blind, the crippled, the lame..."

When these poor, crippled, miserable people come to the table, your rich friends will have to move to the lower places and they will be embarrassed!

Host: *"Why do I invite them!"*

Jesus: *Because they cannot repay you!*

Host: *What do you mean? What kind of logic is that?"*

Jesus: *"These wealthy people don't need you! They can repay you! Invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, **because they cannot repay you.***

"You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

"Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven..." (Matt. 5:19)

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven...If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matt. 5:43-48)

Jesus: (paraphrased) *"Besides, your wealthy, distinguished friends and neighbors are really, in God's eyes, the ones in the most need...they just don't see it!"*

Jesus to the Laodiceans:

"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked...Behold I stand at the door and knock." (Rev. 3:17)

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (14:35)

4. The Guest Plans a Banquet of His Own

"When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, 'Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!'"

- Jesus' message goes completely over his head.

Ahh...won't it be nice when all of us here can have a great dinner like this in the Kingdom..."

- Jesus describes a banquet:

"But...a man once gave a banquet"... (probably the "wedding feast by the King for his Son... (Matt. 22:1-13)

- Entering the Kingdom: Unless you are poor, miserable, hungry, humbled (metaphors for the soul)
- Many excuses for not coming to the party...for turning away from Christ
 - “Many are called, but few are chosen.” (v.23)
 - How does Jesus “...compel people to come...”
 - How did he “compel” you to come? “He loved you ‘ere you knew him.
 - Irresistible grace = Irresistible love; Unconditional love; The perseverance of God.

5. Counting the Cost: The Call to a Godly Life (14:25-35)

- Jesus **warns** the crowds following him:

*“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. **Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.**” (14:25,26)*

“But Jesus did not entrust himself to them (the crowds), because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.” (John 2:24)

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9)
- Hating your parents! The danger of hyperboles...we miss the reason for the hyperbole.

“Then Peter said in reply, “See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new kingdom, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones... And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold^l and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”
- Counting the Cost: (v.28-32)
 1. This is very expensive: it is your whole life you are giving; its everything you have
 2. Count the cost: Don’t do it...if you don’t want to finish
 3. It is humiliating; humbling; embarrassing; saps all your ego out of you
e.g. Going to your enemies to ask for terms of surrender! (v.32)

The Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:17-27) “*He went away sorrowful...*” “*But, Jesus loved him*”!
- What does Jesus mean?
 1. “Are you really sure you want to follow me? Do you hear what I am saying?”
 - “...hate your father and mother...and even your own life...” (v.26)
 - “...bear your own cross...” (v.27)
 - “Foxes have holes, birds have nests...” (Matt. 9:20)
 - “...let the dead bury their dead...you come and follow me.” (Luke 9:60)
 - “Therefore, if anyone does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple” (v.33)

2. *"Many are called..."*, but few choose to continue
3. Count the cost...(v.27-33)

What Christian parent would not want their children to love God more than them? The best way to ensure the true love of anyone, is for that person to love God more than anything else.

4. What is love?
 - Filios: brotherly, friendly love
 - Eros: romantic, sexual love
 - Agape: Godly, sacrificial love

What is "sacrifice": *"Not my will but thine be done."* Dying to self.

6. Summary:

- The purpose of the Law...that every mouth should be stopped...
- *"O wretched man that I am..."* – Paul, Isaiah, Job, Peter, John Newton

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."
- *"He who holds his life will lose it; and he who gives his life for my sake will find it."*
(Matt. 16:25)
- The Call: *Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden...take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly and will give rest unto your souls."*
(Matt. 11:28)
- *"...take up your cross..."* *"Follow me..."*; Where are we going?
- Abraham and Isaac: *"Come with me son."* But where is the sacrifice?
- Entering the Kingdom: *"...and the veil was rent...from top to bottom..."*
- Everything is sacred. Everyday is the Sabbath. Everywhere you go is sacred. The ~~true~~truth applies everywhere all the time.

7. *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."* (14:35b)