

LUKE 14:1-24

REVIEW...

- **THE GOSPEL OF LUKE...**
 - The focus of Luke is on the humanity of Jesus – showing Him as the perfect flawless man...
 - Key Verse - **Luke 19:10** - “The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost.”
- **LUKE 13:1-21 - WHAT WE NEED...**
 - We all need Jesus - we are all sinners in need of saving Grace...
 - The crowd told the story of the men Pilate had killed during a Passover rebellion...
 - Jesus reminded the crowd of the 18 people who had died when Siloam collapsed..
 - Those who died were not better than those who lived - all are sinners!
- **LUKE 13:22-30 - THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY...**
 - A man asked Jesus - ‘are there few who are saved?’
 - 1st - Narrow is the gate - there is only one way to heaven - and few people find it...
 - 2nd - Today is the day to believe - once we die our fate is sealed - no guarantee of tomorrow...
 - 3rd - The least likely will be saved - we will be surprised on who did and did not make it...
 - 4th - Spiritual blindness - Israel rejected Jesus so they were blinded - till the 2nd coming...

THE INVITATION... VS. (3 THINGS)

- **1ST - AN INVITATION TO DINNER... VS. 1-6**
 - Jesus was invited to dinner at the home of one of the rulers of the Pharisees...
 - This was not just a Pharisees’ home - he was one of THE Sanhedrin...
 - A group of 70 men who ruled over the nation of Israel - like a congressman...
 - Jesus was having a meal in the home of a VERY powerful man...
 - There was a man there who suffered from the dropsy...
 - This is a general term referring to a medical condition where you retain water...
 - The symptoms are swelling of the legs and arms - due to excess water in the body...
 - It can be symptomatic of a very serious condition - congestive heart failure
 - The religious leaders said nothing - but they were watching - would Jesus heal him...
 - The man with the dropsy was not there by accident - it was an invitation only dinner...
 - They were looking for any reason to accuse Jesus - prove He ‘broke’ God’s Law...
 - If they could get Jesus to heal on the Sabbath - in front of a ruler of the Sanhedrin...
 - It would be like committing a crime - at the police station for all to see!
 - We might be willing to stand for our faith in church - or around other Christians...
 - But how about in school / how about in the campo / how about at home...
 - Standing up for Jesus - is not dependant on where we are/who we are with...
 - We need to be bold for the Lord - not matter who is watching/listening!
 - Jesus judging their motive asked - ‘is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath’...
 - This meal took place towards the end of Jesus ministry...
 - Jesus had already healed 7 times in front of the religious leaders on the Sabbath...
 - He healed on the Sabbath so often - wonder what He did the other 6 days of the week
 - There was no question what would happen - they expected the man to be healed...

- But they were so blinded by their religion - they took the miracle for granted!
- The Pharisees WOULD NOT answer - they had put the bait in their trap and now waited...
 - If you want to catch a mouse - you don't try to convince him the bait is tasty...
 - You sit by silently and watch - just hoping he will rush in and take a bite...
 - Jesus took the bait - He healed the man - then let him go...
 - People will often try to test our Christian values - do we really stand by them...
 - They may put a drink in front of you - 'what will one drink hurt'...
 - They may tell a 'green joke' - then watch to see if you will laugh...
 - If they can get you to compromise - then they don't feel as bad when they do it...
 - Which one of you would not help his donkey or ox...
 - Jesus revealed their hypocrisy - they would help an animal - but not a brother...
 - Jesus showed that these leaders cared more for their animals than God's people!
- They were left speechless - they COULD NOT answer Jesus...
 - Turns out the mouse was more clever than the men who set the trap...
 - When people question your faith in Jesus - try to trip you up....
 - Take it as an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with them...
 - They will expect you to lash out - fight back - or cower in intimidation...
 - Simply love them instead - give them the Gospel - let them see Jesus...
 - You will leave them speechless - you will leave them at the feet of Jesus!
- 2ND - AN INVITATION TO A WEDDING... VS. 7-14
 - Not only had the leaders been watching Jesus - He had been watching them...
 - Jesus noted how those who were invited had chosen the best seats...
 - No one wanted to sit outside - better to be closest to the most important people...
 - Like at a wedding - you want to seats closest to the Bride and Groom...
 - It means you are someone of importance - it shows you are special!
 - Jesus gave them a parable - 'When you are invited by anyone to a wedding'...
 - Wedding - literally wedding feast - only used 16 times in NT...
 - Perhaps alluding to - the marriage of Jesus (*Lamb of God*) and the Church!
 - Revelation 19:7,9 - "Blessed are those called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!"
 - Jesus gave them two lessons when it comes to being invited...
 - 1st - To the guest - do not choose the best seats...
 - Otherwise someone more important will come - and you will be asked to move...
 - You'll be embarrassed - moving to the lowest seat - since all the others are taken...
 - All eyes on you as you escorted - with shame and disgrace filling your face...
 - Better to take the very lowest seat - and when the one who invited you sees you...
 - He will honor you by escorting you up to a more important seat...
 - These leaders all thought they were someone great...
 - They assumed one day they would at the best seats in the Kingdom of Heaven...
 - But they could not have been more mistaken - they were going to be humbled...
 - Not only were they not going to take the best seats - they would receive the lowest!
 - If we are honest - we tend to put ourselves before others - we are not humble...
 - When we are at Uki-uki - we don't prefer others when it comes to clothes...
 - We will fight and grab to get the best - we saw it first - we deserve it!

- Yet God resists the proud - and only pours out His grace on the humble - **James 4:6...**

- If you exalt yourself - you will be humbled / humble yourself - God will exalt you..
 - If we are prideful - if we think we deserve the best - God is opposed to us...
 - It puts up a wall between God and us - it breaks our fellowship with the Lord...
 - No matter what we do - or how hard we try - we will fail because God is not with us...
 - It is only when we are willing to humble ourselves - God stands on our side...
 - Then no matter what we put our hands to in life - we will find success!

- o 2nd - To the host - do not invite your friends / family / or rich neighbors to dinner...

- These men thought they were being Godly by inviting others into their homes..
 - But inevitably they would be invited back to dinner - that was their reward...
 - They were not looking to serve God - they were looking to be honored by men!
- Instead invite the poor / the maimed / the lame and blind..
 - Those who can in no way ever repay your kindness - bless them...
 - Then you will be happy - and God will repay you in the resurrection of the just!
 - It's about the motive of your heart - desiring to live for and serve the Lord...
 - Not looking to receive the praises of men - the rewards of this world...
 - Instead being like our Father - looking to bless the lowest - the least of all...
 - Because God does not invite those who will give back - friends / family / rich...
 - God invites the poor / the downcast / the broken into His home...

- 3rd - AN INVITATION TO HEAVEN... VS. 15-24

- o One of those who was there said - 'blessed is he who will eat at the feast in Heaven'...

- The obvious assumption is he assumed he would be one of those men..
 - Jesus answered - a certain man gave a great feast and invited many...
 - The man sent out (*Apostello*) his servant (*doulos*) to tell those who were called...
 - The called were God's chosen people - the rightful guests to God's feast in heaven...
- None of them were willing to come - they began to make excuses..
 - From the beginning the Jews were all very reluctant to follow God...
 - They rejected the invitation from the prophets of the Old Testament...
 - They rejected the invitation from John the Baptism....
 - Then they finally rejected the invitation from Jesus Himself!
 - We are called by our Lord to hand out invitation to the feast in heaven...
 - To tell others about the Gospel - the wonderful hope of salvation and forgiveness...
 - But so often when we tell others about Jesus - invite them to church...
 - We hear - later - next time - I'll follow - tomorrow...
 - If they do agree to come you almost feel as if you are forcing them...
 - They make it seem like Jesus/church is an unimportant matter...
 - As if salvation - forgiveness - and eternal life were really not that important!

- o They had 3 different excuses...

- 1st - They were more concerned about money - **Matthew 22:5...**
 - They had a store - they could not walk away and leave it un-attended...
 - They might miss out on some sales - they needed the money
 - Looking for answers to life in money - is like chasing the wind...
 - You will spend your whole life chasing it - but it will remain just outside your grasp

- Like pants that have holes - no sooner will you get money than it is gone!
- The love of money – desire for stuff – only get us into trouble - **I Timothy 6:9-10**
- If we desire more money – we are missing the greatest riches of all – Jesus!
- We cannot dedicate our lives to money and possessions – and to loving Jesus...
- We waste our life on possessions that don't last – rather than on eternal rewards
- 2nd - They were caught up in the pleasures of this life...
 - While still others said - they just got married - they did not have time...
 - It seems that church is on the bottom of the list for most people...
 - They may be willing to go to church - so long as there is NOTHING else to do...
 - If there is a disco / a party / a boxing match / a sport festival...
 - Pretty much any event is more important than attending church...
 - People are more concerned about 'having fun' - than being invited to heaven...
- 3rd - They were too caught up in the cares of this world...
 - There were some who gave the excuse they had a new field to attend to...
 - They needed to watch after their caribou, harvest rice...
 - Investing all their time in things that do not last - and missing out on the eternal...
 - Excuses from 2000 years ago - not much has changed
 - It seems anything is more important than going to Church – Jesus...
 - As if taking time to read the Bible would endanger the harvest...
- o The master became very angry...
 - None of those who were invited shall taste the supper...
 - They choose not to come - so they lost their place at the feast...
 - Our worthiness to get to Heaven is not based on who we are...
 - It is based on what we do with God's invitation...
 - There is one way to get from here to Heaven – one road – Jesus Christ...
 - If we reject the road to heaven – then we choose to hell
 - Quickly (*the dinner is ready*) go out into the Highways...
 - Go out into the streets and lanes of the city - bring the poor / maimed / and blind...
 - o The least likely - the downcast - the rejects - the ones no one else wants...
 - o The servant did as he was commanded - and still there was room...
 - Go to the Highways – the cross roads – where everybody passed by...
 - o The idea is to invite anyone – anyone you see – to come to the feast!
 - o **Romans 10:13** – “**Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**”
 - o **Anyone – absolutely anyone – can be saved!**
 - o **Anyone who accepts God's invitation – will be welcomed to the feast in heaven!**
 - So that my house may be filled...
 - o The message is urgent - the 'table is set' - God is ready to start the feast...
 - o Jesus is coming soon to take His church with Him back to heaven...
 - o God does not want anyone to perish - but He gives all men the choice...
 - o He gives out the invitation - and then lets any and all choose how to respond...
 - o We can make light of it - make excuses - and miss out on heaven...
 - o Or we can get excited - rejoice - that we have a place at God's table in heaven!