

“The Necessity of Humility in Entering the Kingdom of God”



Luke 14:1-24

Recap from last week:

How they could be so close to Jesus yet so far away from His kingdom?

- 1) **The hardness of self-righteousness:** exhibited by the synagogue official becoming enraged Jesus would heal someone on the Sabbath
- 2) **Having a misunderstanding of Christ' Kingdom:** seen by the Jews in their desire to see Christ set up His physical kingdom to free them from Roman captivity and cause them to rule over the nations
 - Mustard Seed that grows into a great tree-(Dominion of the kingdom)
 - Small amount of leaven working through the dough- (Influence of the kingdom).
- 3) **The wrong way into Christ's kingdom:** were trying to get there through self righteousness vs denying self

“Strive”: agōnizomai, to agonize, to fight, to struggle,

Christ provided them with a chilling picture

- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are there...and they are not
- They will have a unspeakable remorse when they realize that they are in hell and God is not there

Theme: Humility is a requirement to enter into Christ's kingdom.

"If you plan to build a tall house of virtues, you must first lay the deep foundations of humility" (Augustine)

"Pride must die in you or nothing of heaven can live in you" (Andrew Murray)

"The greatest enemy to human souls is the self-righteous spirit which make men look to themselves for salvation" (Spurgeon)

"God sends no one away except those who are full of themselves" (DL Moody)

Jesus confronts the self-righteous teachers (1-6)

Setting:

- Jesus is making His way back to Jerusalem
- Midday meal: occurred after the Sabbath morning synagogue (= to our Sunday lunch)
- Meeting consists of Pharisees and Scribes (lawyers)

The nature of the guests:

“Man with dropsy”

- Outcast, believed judgment of God was upon due to his condition

Jesus

- In the Pharisees eyes...from Satan
- A powerful influence on the people
- Jesus condemned (over and over) the religious leaders and the religious system they clung to

The intent of the meal:

- “watching Him closely”-

NT Use- used to describe watching someone with malicious intent

The necessity of humility to enter the kingdom of Heaven (7-11)

Come as one who brings nothing before God (7-11)

- In the ancient world dining with someone was a big deal
- At the head of the table (base of the U), sat the Individual who was throwing the party (Master), surrounded by his esteemed guests
- Jesus points out a visible struggle between the guests over who would sit in the places of honor
- The Pharisees were noted for doing this often.

Matthew 23:6 (NASB95) — 6 “They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues

The necessity of humility to enter the kingdom of Heaven (7-11)

Come as a beggar expecting nothing in return (12-14)

- The system the Pharisees was motivated by selfish desires and self exaltation

- Jesus is putting his finger on the Pharisee's motivation:

They expected by what they did, they would stand to gain somehow...and in this life find recognition and praise from their peers and the people

True righteousness does not look for a payback but is offered free of charge, graciously, just as God in Christ has forgiven us free of charge (Bock, Darrell L.)

"His message is clear. No one will enter the kingdom by merit, good works, righteous deeds, self-promotion, spiritual pride, or making and keeping extrabiblical laws. Salvation comes only to the humble, the broken and contrite who plead only for mercy and grace, and nothing more. (MacArthur, John)

A Banquet of Unlikely Guests (15-24)

- **A Pharisaical Declaration (15)**
- **The Master's Invitation (16-17)**
- **Unbelievable Excuses (18-20)**
- **An Unthinkable Inclusion (21-24)**

Conclusion

- Pride is the enemy to eternal life
- To enter into the kingdom of God, one must humble them self, heeding the call of Christ to repent and place their faith in Him alone.
- As Christians, we must be aware of our pride and we must ask God to drive it out of us by the power of His Word.

“No matter how dear you are to God, if pride is harbored in your spirit, He will whip it out of you. They that go up in their estimation must come down again by His discipline” (Spurgeon)