

**Lunch with Jesus –  
Spiritual Lessons for the Scribes & Pharisees**

**Luke 14:1-24**

## **Four(4) Main Sects of Judaism in Jesus' Day**

- Sadducees** **Wealthy priests or Levites who were politically-minded and were the elite**
- Zealots** **Political revolutionaries seeking independence from Rome**
- Essenes** **Those who isolated themselves from the culture, exercising severe discipline and abstinence from common pleasures and comforts in life**
- Pharisees** **Devout fundamentalists who were extremely passionate about the Mosaic Law as well as the rabbinical traditions they added to it**

# Jesus' Conversation with the Scribes & Pharisees (vv1-6)

The setting – *lunch with religious leaders*

**Luke 6:7** <sup>7</sup>The scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him closely *to see* if He healed on the Sabbath, so that they might find *reason* to accuse Him.

# Jesus' Conversation with the Scribes & Pharisees (vv1-6)

The setting – *lunch with religious leaders*

The question – *is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?*

The miracle – *Jesus heals the man with dropsy*

The follow-up question – *what person would not rescue his son or even an ox on the Sabbath?*

The point – *showing love, mercy, and compassion on the Sabbath doesn't break the Law but fulfills it*

# Jesus' Conversation with the Invited Guests (vv7-11)

The observation – *the guests are seeking the places of honor*

**Luke 11:43** <sup>43</sup>“Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the chief seats in the synagogues and the respectful greetings in the market places.”

**Matthew 23:6** <sup>6</sup>“They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues”

## Jesus' Conversation with the Invited Guests (vv7-11)

The observation – *the guests are seeking the places of honor*

The parable – *a wedding feast*

The lesson in the story – *better to act humbly at a wedding and be honored by the host, rather than acting prideful and being humiliated*

The point – *those who pridefully exalt themselves before God will be humbled, while those who humbly approach Him will be exalted*

# Jesus' Conversation with the Invited Guests (vv7-11)

The observation – *the guests are seeking the places of honor*

The parable

The lesson  
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**Luke 18:10–14** <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a **Pharisee** and the other a **tax collector**. <sup>11</sup>“The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘**God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.**’ <sup>12</sup>‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ <sup>13</sup>“But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘**God, be merciful to me, the sinner!**’ <sup>14</sup>“I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

## Jesus' Conversation with the Host (vv12-14)

The given observation – *the host, like any typical Pharisee, invited guests not out of charity but with ulterior, self-serving motives*

The challenge – *rather than inviting your circle of family and friends to such an event who can reciprocate, charitably invite those who have no means of repaying you*

The point – *the rewards in the kingdom of God are for those who serve others, not for those who serve themselves*



## Jesus' Conversation with the Vocal Guest (vv15-24)

The toast – *blessed are they who will enjoy the heavenly banquet*

The parable - *a grand banquet that the first invited guests do not attend due to ridiculous excuses, so others are subsequently invited*

The point – *the divine invitation of salvation was first offered to the Jews but rejected, and subsequently has been offered to the Gentiles*

# The Points

- Showing love, mercy, and compassion on the Sabbath doesn't break the Law but fulfills it
- Those who pridefully exalt themselves before God will be humbled, while those who humbly approach Him will be exalted
- The rewards in the kingdom of God are for those who serve others, not for those who serve themselves
- The divine invitation of salvation was first offered to the Jews but rejected, and subsequently has been offered to the Gentiles