

The Parable of the Pompous Guest



Luke 14:1-14

- In the Book of Matthew 13:10, Jesus began using parables to teach about the kingdom of heaven.
- According to Mark 4:34, “Jesus did not say anything to them without using a parable and when He was alone with His disciples He would explain what He meant.”
- Purpose: To assist us in growing in our understanding by exploring these divine truths found Christ teaching.
- Objective: To teach us what they mean and how they relate to our present and future life in Christ Jesus.
- Goal: To allow the Holy Spirit speak to our hearts and draw us closer to Jesus Christ.

- The Parables that have been taught
 - The Parable of the Sower. (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23)
 - The Parable of the Wheat and The Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30)
 - The Parable of the Mustard Seed. (Matthew 13:31-32)
 - The Parable of the Leaven (Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21)
 - The Parable of the Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)
 - The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price” (Matthew 13:45-46)
 - The Parable of the Dragnet (Matthew 13:47-51)
 - The Parable of the Householder (Matthew 13:51-53)
 - The Parable of the Wineskins (Luke 5:34-39, Matthew 9:14-17, Mark 2:18-22)
 - The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:12-26)
 - The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9)
 - The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16)

The Parable of the Pompous Guest”

Luke 14:1-14

- Before we study and examine the parable of the Pompous Guest, we must look closely at the setting where it takes place. (vs. 1-6)

1. Jesus is invited by the Chief Pharisee (leader of the Pharisees), to eat bread at his home on the Sabbath. (vs. 1)

- The Pharisees and lawyers (religious leaders) “watched” Jesus closely. (vs. 1)
- The word “watched” means they were being critical, looking for fault, error, or mistakes both in His character and behavior.
- Their motives for having Jesus present for dinner was not genuine or sincere. It not to show appreciation or celebrate both His deity and humanity.

2. Jesus notices a certain man who was there before Him who had a condition called “dropsy” which is a buildup of fluid in the body. (vs. 2)
 - The man was there at the Chief Pharisee house and before Jesus either by his own will or the will of the Chief Pharisee.
 - The man was suffering severely from a physical condition.
 - The Pharisees and lawyers were suffering severely from a spiritual condition.
 - Jesus was among all these religious leaders, but why was He the only one to show deep concern, mercy and compassion for the man.
3. Jesus knew that the man was suffering physically and needed help. But He also knew the spiritual condition that was rooted in the heart of these religious leaders. (vs. 3)
 - Jesus answering. Teaches us that He already knew the motives within their hearts.
 - Jesus spoke. Teaches us what His concerns were and at the same time exposing the error of their ways. (vs. 3)
 - The Sabbath. It means to rest, cease or to stop. It was a holy and sacred day before God. A day set aside to rest, honor and worship God. (Genesis 1:1-31, 2:1-3, Exodus 20:8-11)
 - Jesus asked the question. “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?” (vs. 3)
 - Jesus was aware that it was the Sabbath and the importance of it. He was there with God, when God created all creation in six days and rested from His work on the seventh day. (John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-17)
 - Jesus was asking them, “Which need is considered more important and serve God’s greater purposes?”

- **Healing the man.**
- **Keeping the Sabbath.**
- **Jesus was pointing out that keeping the Sabbath was more than a strict form of rules, religious practices or ritual.**
- **The Sabbath day is important to God and should be observed but not abused.**
- **Serving and ministering to the needs people is also important to God as well.**
- **Jesus knew exactly what they believed and their position on the matter.**
- **It was unlawful to heal this man.**
- **It was a violation of the law, but a law that each religious leader violated.**
- **It could be no exception to the rule and all religious practices must be followed.**

4. **The Pharisees and lawyers remained silent. (vs. 4)**
 - **They said nothing in response to Jesus question. Why were they afraid to answer Jesus question?**
 - **The fear of being exposed as a hypocrite.**
 - **The fear of being exposed as legalistic. The word “legalism” means strict rules, excessive conformity to the law or to a religious or moral code.**
 - **The fear of losing support from those who were loyal to them.**
 - **The fear of losing their position of power and recognition.**
 - **The fear of having their religious rules, forms and practices questioned.**
 - **Jesus heals the man and let him go. (vs. 4)**
 - **Jesus observed the man’s need and showed him love, mercy and compassion.**
 - **The Pharisees and lawyers observed the Sabbath and looked passed his needs.**
5. **Jesus answered them with a personal question to reveal how shallow their religion and beliefs were. (vs. 5)**
 - **(vs. 5) “Which of you having a donkey or an ox that fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?”**

- Jesus knew that these religious leaders would each put their own personal needs before Sabbath day. (vs. 5)
- The Sabbath day should have been received as a blessing from God and not a burden to people.
- The Sabbath day should have been received as an opportunity from God to serve people and not be servant to a set of strict rules and religious practices.
- The Sabbath day should have been received as a joyful day of rest, worship and reflecting on the goodness of God and growing in our relationship with Him and not for judgement or to place people in bondage.
- Jesus knew that these religious leaders only sought to use and abuse the Sabbath day to serve their religious purposes and not the purposes of God.
- Sadly, we see this far too often throughout Christendom. Men and women who are twist the Word of God to benefit them and serve their own selfish agenda.

6. Neither the Pharisees or the lawyers could give an answer regarding what Jesus said. (vs. 6)

- The Pharisees and lawyers who were consider experts of the law, should have known these things through their study of Scripture. (Mark 2:23-28)

- 1) The Sabbath is not about a set of strict rules and regulations. (vs. 23-24)
- 2) Jesus uses David as an example while questioning their knowledge of Scripture. (vs. 25-26)
 - Jesus was pointing out that the he and His disciples' actions were justified as were David and his men.
- 3) Jesus makes it clear that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. (vs. 27)
 - Jesus was not saying that the Sabbath was not important and serves no purpose in the sight of God and man.

- Jesus was simply saying that observing the Sabbath day (rest and worship), shouldn't prevent us from helping and serving those in need.
- It shouldn't prevent us from showing love, forgiveness, compassion and mercy toward others.

4) Jesus declares Himself as the Lord of the Sabbath (vs. 28).

- Jesus, as God and the Son of Man established the Sabbath. He knew the purpose in which it was to serve as a blessing and benefit to man.
- Jesus He is the only One who can bring true spiritual rest and fulfillment in a person life.