**Enlarging Your Circle** **January 19, 2014**

Devotional Reading: Psalm 147: 1-11 Lesson 8

Background Scripture: Luke 14:7-24

**Jesus at a Pharisee’s House**

14 One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. 2There in front of him was a man suffering from abnormal swelling of his body. 3Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?” 4But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him on his way.5Then he asked them, “If one of you has a child[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+14%3A+1-7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25559a)] or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull it out?” 6And they had nothing to say.

In our lesson today, and during Jesus’ third year of teaching, Luke described another dinner that happened in a private home of a Pharisee, with a guest list of about a dozen that was reclining on cushioned benches. The meal was served by women of the household or by servants. It is also likely that there were others present who were not at the table but were standing or sitting around the edges of the room. \*\*\*\*This arrangement indicated a pecking order: the most-honored guests were at the table, while the less honored were not. \*\*\*The dinners is being compared to wedding feast but in a modern sense banquets would mean hundreds of guests situated in a hotel ballroom. \*\*\*The host presided from a central position at the table and the closer one was to the host, the more prestigious his status at this dinner. In this lesson, this dinner involved small circles of teachers with disciples that was there to meet and discuss scriptures, doctrine and how to practice the commandments a few generations before Jesus

Luke 14:7-18A, 21-24

LIVING FOR GOD’S EXALTATION-Luke 14: 7-11

**A parable on self-glorification vs 7**

1.NEVER SEEK TO TAKE GLORY FOR YOURSELF (VS 7-8)

NIV 7 When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable

At a gathering of rabbis, Jesus scolded and rebuked a group of Pharisees when He witnessed their behavior

Jesus frequently taught using parables: The primary purpose of a parable was to praise and blame to motivate change. Also parables communicated higher truths, beliefs about God that should affect behavior.

**The descent of the self glorified vs 8-9**

NIV8 "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited.

The Pharisees sought the best places at the table. Jesus observed this behavior and noted that it went against a heavenly truth…In Jesus’ parable this dinner is compared to a wedding feast. A wedding was the most important social occasion and one in which a house would be filled to over overflowing with guests

2.PRIDE COMES BEFORE A FALL (VS9)

NIV 9 If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place.

**The ascent of the God-exalted vs. 10**

3. LET ANOTHER PERSON GIVE YOU HONOR, NOT YOURSELF ( VS 10)

NIV 10 But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests.

**The glorification from God vs. 11**

4. SELFISHNESS ALWAYS LEADS TO PRIDE AND DIVISION WHEREAS SELFLESSNESS LEADS TO HARMONY IN RELATIONSHIPS (VS 11)

KEY VERSE:

NIV 11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

**Living for the Resurrection vs. 12-14**

5. INVEST YOUR LIFE NOT IN THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO PAY YOU BACK (VS 12-13)

NIV 12 Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid.

**Divinely protected ones vs 13**

NIV 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,

**Reward at the resurrection vs. 14**

6. GOD REWARDS HUMILITY AND CHRISTLIKE SERVICE (VS 14)

NIV 14 and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

**Reaction to Jesus vs 15-18a, 21-24**

NIV 15 When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.

This man understood that Jesus was speaking of the kingdom of God, which includes a heavenly banquet. The future banquet is a symbol of God’s acceptance and reward of the resurrected, righteous people. This ultimate inclusion by God is also the ultimate blessing

**Rejected Invitation vs 16-18**

NIV 16 Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests.

NIV 17 At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

**And they all with one consent began to make excuses vs 18**

NIV 18 "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

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**Redirected Request vs 21**

NIV 21 "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

**Room for More vs 22-24**

NIV 22 'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room

NIV 23 Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.

NIV 24 I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'

**The banquet is open to those who except His invitation…..**

**Matthew 21:28-32**

New International Version (NIV)

**The Parable of the Two Sons**

28“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

29“‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

30“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

31“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.