

LUKE Lesson 38

At the Dinner Table (Chapter 14:7-24)

22 February 2019

THE PRINCIPLE OF HUMILITY (Luke 14:7-11)

It is not a sin to be in a high place (President, CEO, King, Pastor, Supervisor) as long as it has been given to you rather than taken.

Satan desired to exalt himself and was condemned (Isaiah 14:13-15).

If a novice (beginner) Christian desires to be a pastor, he is in danger of Satan's condemnation (1 Tim 3:6).

Start low, work hard, and be patient. Be humble and take the place God gives you and wait for Him to lift you up (James 4:10).

THE PRINCIPLE OF RECOMPENSE (Luke 14:12-14)

Don't give with the motive of getting something back in return (a gift, recognition, \$\$\$).

Don't give to those who have plenty because you think that they will also give you something.

Give to those who have a real need; those who can't pay you back.

Real giving is not trading goods or exchanging gifts. Real giving is bestowing your abundance on those that have less.

Real giving will be rewarded by God (vs 14).

Giving to those with a need can result in their salvation (1 Cor 1:26). They'll appreciate the promises of Heaven.

Rich people probably won't listen to your gospel message no matter how great your "gift." They feel like they're in Heaven already.

THE PRINCIPLE OF LAME EXCUSES (Luke 14:15-24)

Lame: inefficient; imperfect; as, a *lame* answer.

Excuse: That which is offered as a reason for being excused; a plea offered to justify a fault or irregular behavior; apology; as, an *excuse* for neglect of duty; *excuses* for delay of payment.

The excuses these men offered in this parable were intended to veil the fact that they were rejecting the invitation. Instead of saying, "No, I'm not interested," they invented a lame story to excuse themselves.

The Excuse of Possessions (vs 18)

The excuses people make concerning their possessions (land, house, yard) are never as urgent as they want you to think. They are certainly not as important as an invitation to the Lord's table!

People will die and miss Heaven because they used their property as an excuse to reject the invitation.

The Excuse of Labor or Commerce (vs 19)

This excuse is not even slightly believable. It is not likely that any man would buy five yoke of oxen without checking them out first. If he really made such a major purchase, he would have proved them before he laid down the cash.

This speaks of people who are always trying to make a little more money (overtime, second job, business deals, investments, etc.) and, instead of putting God first (see Mt. 6:33), they put things in this life first.

God said He would meet our needs if we put Him first. People who aren't satisfied with having their needs met will make excuses to go out and earn another buck. (1 Tim 6:9).

The Excuse of Family (vs 20)

Natural affections often effect our decision-making abilities.

Fear of what a loved one might think has caused many people, young and old, to say no to Jesus Christ. They fear they'll be abandoned by someone they love if they turn to Jesus Christ, so they make excuses. What they don't realize is that, by rejecting Christ, they'll end up in a place where they won't have any relationships for eternity. Then they'll wish they'd accepted the Lord's invitation.

The Result of Making Excuses (vs 21-25)

Refusing the Lord's invitation makes Him angry (vs 21). When you snub Him, He'll go find someone else who will appreciate His offer (vs 21-23).

Excuses are not reasons because they're not reasonable; they're foolish. There is nothing more foolish than passing up the Lord's invitation. If you die in your sins, you won't get another invitation. It will be too late.

Don't let your pursuit of temporary things (real-estate, money, worldly advancement, earthly relationships, etc.) cause you to lose your opportunity to have an eternal relationship with God in Heaven.

There is no good reason not to accept the Lord's invitation. There are only lame excuses.
