

## Lesson 7 – Lessons on Discipleship

Text: Luke 14

Main Characters: God, Jesus

Key Passages:

- Luke 14:11 – He who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.
- Luke 14:33 – In order to be Jesus' disciple, we must forsake all that we have.

Main Storyline:

One Sabbath day, Jesus went into the house of one of the ruling Pharisees to eat bread. While inside, the Pharisees were watching him very carefully. A man with dropsy (abnormal swelling in his body) was brought before Jesus. Jesus questioned the lawyers and Pharisees regarding the lawfulness of healing on the Sabbath day (perhaps because he knew exactly what they were thinking). However, they would not answer Jesus' question, instead keeping silent. Jesus proceeded to heal the man and let him go. Jesus went on to ask, "If any of you had a donkey or an ox fall into a pit, would you not get him out, even on the Sabbath day?" Still, no one responded to Jesus.

Jesus looked around and noticed how many of the guests were selecting the best places for themselves. He offered some advice, "When you are invited to a feast, do not sit down in the best place. Someone more honorable than you may come along, and you will have to give up your seat to him. Then you will have to sit in the lowest place in shame. Instead, sit down in the lowest place, and perhaps the one giving the feast will invite you to sit at a more honorable place. Then you will be honored by those around you. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Jesus also told the man giving the feast that, when he gives other feasts, he should not invite those who are close to him (they would most likely invite the man to their own homes and repay his good work). Instead, he should invite the poor and disabled. In doing so, he would be blessed by God, because they would not be able to repay his good deed physically.

When one of the men heard Jesus' teachings, he said, "Blessed is he who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" In response, Jesus told a parable about a master who was hosting a great feast. He had invited many people and had sent his servant to call who were invited to the feast which was ready. However, all of the guests made excuses and claimed they could not come. One man claimed he had just bought some land, and he needed to see it. Another man said he had just purchased some oxen, and he needed to test them. Another man said that he had married a wife and could not come. The master commanded the servant to go throughout the area and bring in the poor and disabled and fill up the house. He said that none of those who had been invited at first would be able to taste the feast.

A large crowd of people continued to stay with Jesus. Jesus began to teach them about the cost of discipleship, what it would require in order to be his disciple. He first began to explain that if a man did not hate his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, and even his own life, he could not be Jesus' disciple. (By this, Jesus did not literally mean that a man should hate these people and himself, but that, in comparison with the value that a man placed on following Jesus, these people and his own life should have relatively little importance to him.)

Jesus also taught that anyone who did not bear his own cross could not be Jesus' disciple either. Jesus questioned them, "Who, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost to see whether or not he has enough money to finish it?" He continued, "What king does not first sit down and consider whether he has enough forces to fight another king?" Jesus explained that whoever does not forsake everything could not be his disciple.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) We must humble ourselves before others and before God, allowing them to exalt us (if they desire).
- 2.) Being a disciple of Jesus is not a small matter; we must first be willing to forsake everything in this life.