

07022023 Sabbath day hospitality was an important part of Jewish life, so it was not unusual for Jesus to be invited to a home for a meal after the weekly synagogue service. Sometimes the host invited Him sincerely because he wanted to learn more of God's truth. But many times Jesus was asked to dine only so His enemies could watch Him and find something to criticize and condemn.

Why our Lord's enemies thought that one more bit of evidence was necessary, we do not know, For Jesus had already "violated" their Sabbath traditions on at least seven different occasions. On previous Sabbath days, He had cast out a demon (Luke 4:31–37), healed a fever (Luke 4:38–39), allowed His disciples to pluck grain (Luke 6:1–5), healed a lame man (John 5:1–9), healed a man with a paralyzed hand (Luke 6:6–10), delivered a crippled woman who was afflicted by a demon (Luke 13:10–17), and healed a man born blind (John 9).

Jesus was not impressed by Religion, wealth or social position or power. He didn't even bother talking to Herod, the ultimate insult to a king, even calling him a fox.

He associated with criminals and sinners, accused of being a glutton and a drunkard. He accused the religious leaders of turning the Temple into a den of thieves. In his public addresses he did not mince his words but clearly showed what he thought of the narrow-mindedness of religious tradition.

Jesus had no time for mock holiness. he deliberately healed on the Sabbath knowing what offence this would bring to those who believed they were especially religious.

In other words he was at great variance with the religious and social culture of his day... **And this is brought home again today as Jesus attends a Sabbath dinner at the home of a prominent Pharisee...which is a set up...so that he could be watched...and Jesus turns it around**

and watched them...and of course takes the opportunity to teach them the better way...

NIVLK 14:1 One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. ² There in front of him was a man suffering from dropsy.

- The Pharisee who invited Jesus to his home for dinner also invited a man afflicted with dropsy
- **Dropsy** is an abnormal accumulation of fluids in the body and extremities due to a faulty heart or kidneys. It manifests itself in the bloating of the face and can also cause swelling in the arms and legs.
- The great pain can be only temporarily relieved by puncturing the patient with a hollow needle and siphoning off the excess fluid.
- Every time the man did this, he would become ceremonially unclean. It was the teaching of the rabbis that a man who had this kind of disease had committed a grievous sin.
- **it is apparent he was allowed into the dinner as a pawn to see if Jesus would heal on the Sabbath...**
- **That is why He was placed right in front of Jesus...**

*****Now at this dinner were ...a prominent Pharisee That meant that he was a guardian of the tradition and interpreter of the laws of Moses and some

also at the dinner were Scribes or teachers of the law... - Their job was to study and expound the law. The Pharisees were a religious party, whereas the scribes held religious office. Most of the scribes belonged to the Pharisaic party, whereas not all Pharisees were scribes.

- Scribes claimed positions of first rank, sought public acclaim of the people and wore long and expensive robes.
- They were the strongest opponents of Jesus because He refused to be bound by the letter of the law They kept close watch over whatever He said and did
- Together the Pharisees and Scribes followed the law extremely carefully and were guardians of the religious establishment of Jesus' time, they lived according to the strictest code of the Jewish religious system
- In their confrontation with Jesus, two basic issues were involved:
 - 1) His relation with God the Father; His claims of being equal with the Father, and
 - 2) His relationship with man; His mingling with the lowest class of people in the society; He came to serve and not to be served.
 - 3) his failure to keep the laws and traditions as handed down by the elders

*****this was the party dinner he was invited too...his enemies put it on and he was the one being served up.....and he graciously went...why? He demonstrated how to treat enemies**

NLT MT 5:43 “⁴³ “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’^[a] and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, **love your enemies!**^[r] Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.

- perfect love...loves even your enemies...so Jesus attends

- This afflicted man would not have been invited to such an important dinner were it not that the Pharisees wanted to use him as “bait” to catch Jesus.
- They knew that Jesus could not be in the presence of human suffering very long without doing something about it.
- If He ignored the afflicted man, then He was without compassion, but if He healed him, then He was openly violating the Sabbath and they could accuse Him.
- So They put the dropsied man right in front of the Master so He could not avoid him, and then they waited for the trap to spring.

So Jesus beats them to the punch: He asks what their convictions were about the Sabbath day, He came ready to poke the bear! In the hope of another opportunity to repent...or add to their judgment

NIV Luke 14:3 Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?"

- **They are in a dilemma. Their teaching is that a physician is not permitted to practice his profession on the Sabbath unless the life of the patient is in danger.**
- **But Jesus is no doctor. And they have no rules that can dictate when a miracle can take place. And they considered miracles of healing from God**
- **They have no answer. They see it as a trick question. After all, what right do they have to dictate when the power of God is allowed to be manifested?**

NIV 14: 4 But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him away.

- In the silence of their thoughts, Jesus took the sick man, healed him, and let him go.

- Yes, Jesus let him go, to end their their abuse of him. Pharisee's house was now going to be a hostile place for him. the sick man will have to leave for his own safety
- Instead of providing evidence against *Jesus*, the man provided evidence against the *Pharisees*, for he was "exhibit A" of the divine healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Then he confronts their silence with another party-stopping question:

LK 14:5 Then he asked them, "If one of you has a son or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull him out?"⁶ And they had nothing to say.

- "To save an ox from a well ...in this case meaning cistern or a pit would cause a considerable amount of work when you think about how big those animals are, and that they would fall into a cistern.
- You might wonder how in the world they would fall into a cistern. Well here is how: It is not that they are not sure-footed at all. They are far more sure-footed than you and I!"
- "But a cistern would be dug in order to collect rain water in it, and then in order to make it safer for humans the cistern would be covered over with tree branches and limbs and things like that, which if a person stepped on it, it would probably hold him, and there would be no problem, and the person would jump to his safety.
- But if a large, heavy animal, which might weigh seven or eight hundred pounds, stepped on it, the animal would go crashing right through because it could not discern that it was not solid ground."
- Jesus said to them, the life of the animal and a son and which both are necessary to the prosperity of the family is deemed of such worth... Then it is ok to break the Sabbath law by working to get them out

- So You know how to interpret and apply the law to your own advantage when a need arises. **What about applying it to the advantage and healing of people?" And again, they were silent. They could make no reply.**

Here is the point...

- **Whenever law** — religious or otherwise — is interpreted and applied to our advantage but lets our neighbor stand there shivering and sick, something has gone wrong with our righteousness.
- In that house Jesus showed a righteousness that goes far beyond laws: **it is the rightness of freely acting out the love of God. That is the righteousness God wants.**

The Religious leaders did not see the log in their own eyes...so he continues to expose it...

NLT Luke 14:7 When Jesus noticed that all who had come to the dinner were trying to sit in the seats of honor near the head of the table, he gave them this advice: ⁸ “When you are invited to a wedding feast, don’t sit in the seat of honor. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited? ⁹ The host will come and say, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then you will be embarrassed, and you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table!

¹⁰ “Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, ‘Friend, we have a better place for you!’ Then you will be honored in front of all the other guests. ¹¹ For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² Then he turned to his host. “When you put on a luncheon or a banquet,” he said, “don’t invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. ¹³ Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the

blind. ¹⁴ *Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you.*” Experts in management tell us that most people wear an invisible sign that reads, “Please make me feel important”; if we heed that sign, we can succeed in human relations.

- On the other hand, if we say or do things that make others feel insignificant, we will fail. Then people will respond by becoming angry and resentful, because everybody wants to be noticed and made to feel important.
- In Jesus’ day, as today, there were “status symbols” that helped people enhance and protect their high standing in society. If you were invited to the “right homes” and if you were seated in the “right places,” then people would know how important you really were. The higher you stood on the social ladder and the more attention (and invitations) you would receive from others. The emphasis was on reputation, not character.

It was more important to sit in the right places than to live the right kind of life. Success that comes only from self-promotion is **generally temporary**, and you may be embarrassed as you are asked to move down ...when someone else is considered better to be seen with than you.

This kind of attitude betrays a false view of success. “Try not to become a man of success,” “but try to become a value.. demonstrating like Jesus even our enemies are valuable also ...for the mere fact they are made in the image of God.

People who value others are truly children of God... and it is usually true that valuable people are eventually recognized and appropriately honored.

NLT Matt 6:2 When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. ³ But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴ Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

*1 Timothy 5:25And the good deeds **done in secret** will someday come to light.*

Keep on loving others well.... Much better to have the applause of God than man

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